

the chronicle

Sheep watch

Group to be extra vigilant after spate of attacks

Page 5



A daff-t mutt

Pet labrador in trouble as it devours owner's daffodils

Page 12



Jack's the lad

Teenage boxer looks to show his strength

Page 39



Officers round up more than 155 horses

MORE than 155 horses have been rounded up from the streets of Dudley since a pilot project run by police began in the town, officers say.

The campaign, which began a year ago, has been hailed a success by police chiefs.

Specialist teams have removed 159 horses from busy roads around the borough since the project began in April last year.

The number of calls about the roaming animals has also dropped with fewer sightings of the roaming horses reported to council bosses, police said.

New measures to help control wandering horses were introduced following complaints from residents about the animals running out in front of cars and trampling through gardens.

Police began responding to calls from the public after Dudley Council found an ancient by-law giving them the power to remove the animals from roads in the borough. Many have been taken in from Brockmoor and Pen-snett.

Sett Cliff Tomkinson, who has been leading the project, said the problem had been "much bigger" than was first thought and officers had been shocked by the number of horses collected.

Pupils sing for hospice

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Dudley helped to raise more than £100 for charity at a supermarket performance.

Pupils from Jesson's CE Primary School sang tunes at Tesco Burnt Tree last week.

Their performance included Adele's Rolling in the Deep, Stevie Wonder's Superstition and Take That's Kidz.

The children collected more than £100 from shoppers during the 50-minute event which will be given to Compton Hospice, Wolverhampton.

'HONEYPOT' VANS TO CATCH THIEVES

by Heather Large

POLICE are using honeypot-style tactics with undercover cars and vans to catch thieves following an increase in vehicle crime in Dudley. Officers say there has been a rise in the number of work vans targeted by raiders who are stealing high value power tools and equipment to sell on.

The "capture cars and vans" are painted with a DNA substance which leaves an invisible fluid on clothes to help identify thieves who tamper with the vehicles. Police are also stepping up patrols in the borough and visiting known thieves to make sure they are obeying court orders. They are warning vehicle owners not to leave belongings on display in their cars or vans as this could attract the attention of thieves.

Jewellers is raided twice in one month

RAIDERS struck at a Dudley jewellery shop for the second time in a month fleeing with a haul of more than 40 watches and a pair of earrings.

Burglars pulled away a protective shutter at John Hollins Jewellers before smashing one of the windows to get inside. They were unable to get through so tried the door.

Store owner John Griffiths said they had taken 38 Timex watches and seven middle-range Rolex watches. They had also smashed one of the glass counters and took a pair of earrings. The total amount of the haul is estimated at around £1,000.

But Mr Griffiths, who is celebrating 50 years since taking over the store this year, said the amount was negligible compared to the total cost of repairing the damage.

Everything at the shop has now been repaired but Mr Griffiths said the cost was still being calculated by insurance officials.

The burglary took place at around 3.20am on April 12.

It happened just over a week after an armed raid at the store where two female staff were threatened by robbers.

Mr Griffiths said: "The amount which was actually taken is negligible. However the repairs are a different matter. So far it has not been the 50th anniversary year we had hoped for."

Dudley's Detective Chief Inspector Andy Parsons said: "We have seen a slight increase in vehicle crime across the borough where vans have been targeted and work tools have been stolen.

"We are investigating where the stolen property is being sold, particularly power tools, and I would ask the public to call us if they have been offered any goods which they might suspect to be stolen.

"If you have been offered any deals which you think are too good to be true, or you know who might be involved in these crimes, please get in touch with us," he said.

Valuable

"I'd like to remind all motorists to ensure they lock their vehicle and take out any valuable items to reduce the risk of theft.

"Even though we saw a decrease in vehicle crime last year, we can not become complacent and must continue to remain vigilant," he added.

Police recommend fitting alarms or immobilisers to cars and vans, using garages where possible, removing high power tools and equipment from parked vehicles and never leaving valuables in the glove box as this is the first place thieves look.

The borough has also been hit by thieves ripping catalytic converters from parked cars.

More than 140 "cats" were stolen last year and police launched Operation Boss Cat to try to stop opportunistic thieves targeting vehicles left on the roadside.

Officers also increased patrols and visited known scrap dealers across the area in a bid to deter thieves.

Walking tall for St George



Stilt walkers Lee Partridge, left, with Andrew Healey at the St George's Day parade

ST GEORGE and the Dragon were walking tall during celebrations in Stourbridge in honour of the patron saint of England.

More than 1,000 people lined the streets to watch a colourful parade through the town.

Featuring stilt walkers, Morris dancers, cheerleaders and a ukulele band, it started in Duke Street and went along Coventry Street before finishing by the Rye Market.

It was followed by a tea dance in the town hall and there was also street entertainment and a farmers market.

Meanwhile, staff at Stourbridge Library set up a grotto where story-telling sessions, craft activities and face painting were taking place.

There was also a papier-mache dragon to greet and entertain visitors.

Amy Shaw, from Dudley Council, said: "It went extremely well. There was a fantastic turn out.

"The sun shone for the parade and people seemed to really enjoy the entertainment."

● Patriotic – page 2

Delegation in talks to put case for Dudley

DUDLEY'S MPs joined leading councillors and officials for face-to-face talks with a Government minister to state the town's case for cash to help revive the high street.

The delegation travelled to Westminster to put the case for Dudley to be made part of the pilot project inspired by TV retail guru Mary Portas.

The town is vying with Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Bearwood and Walsall to become one of 12 areas chosen to be part of the scheme. Each area chosen would be given a share of a £1million and take part in initiatives recommended by Portas to boost trade and revamp high streets.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said the talks with Grant Shapps MP, the minister tasked with reinvigorating high streets, had been very positive, focusing on how an improved retail experience in the town will marry with proposed new developments to boost tourism.

"It would show the importance of new ideas and new thinking to boost investment and help get the high street back on its feet," he added.

Mr Austin invited Dudley South MP Chris Kelly, Dudley Council leader Councillor Les Jones and other officials and developers to the meeting.

Spar springs up at station

THE NEW £7 million Stourbridge Interchange is one of the first bus stations in the West Midlands to boast a national convenience store chain under its roof.

The Spar shop has created six new jobs at the station, which opened just off the ring road on Sunday.

Suzanne Page, transport operations and performance manager for Centro, said: "It's quite a coup for us."

Spar has invested £85,000.

● Running – page 4

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Wartime romance lasted 70 years



Clifford and Audrey Shepherd

THEY married in wartime Britain when taking a honeymoon was a pipe dream.

But Clifford and Audrey Shepherd say the love of their family over the decades has helped them reach a marital milestone.

Mrs and Mrs Shepherd, aged 91 and 89 respectively, who live in Sedgley, have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. They said they were blessed to mark the occasion with

three other generations of the family – their daughter, their grand-daughter and great grand-daughter.

They were joined by daughter Jenny, grand-daughter Venessa and 14-year-old great-grand-daughter Rebecca for their anniversary earlier this month.

Mrs Shepherd said: "We have stuck together through thick and thin and have always been there for each other. "But of course our family has been

an important part of our lives as well."

The couple were both born and raised in Willenhall and they met after starting work at lockmakers J Legge & Co, Moat Street, Willenhall. They dated for three years before marrying at St Giles Church, Willenhall. Mrs Shepherd had been lucky to get the material for her wedding dress despite the tough wartime conditions as her mother Lily was a dressmaker.

Patriotic people parade to celebrate St George

PATRIOTIC people saw to it that streets across the Black Country were emblazoned with red and white as tens of thousands took part in parades to celebrate St George's Day.

Houses hung St George flags from windows, people donned fancy dress and patriotic songs were blasted into the streets as marches took place across the region.

In Stourbridge, more than 1,000 lined the streets to watch the patriotic parade.

Families enjoyed entertainment including a performance by singer Maggie O'Hara who led a singalong session in the town centre.

A themed tea dance also took place at the town hall.

In Kidderminster, stalls, games and music entertained crowds in St George's Park while scout groups staged a traditional parade through the town.

A parade was also held in West Bromwich where it kicked off in Westminster Road just before 11am against a backdrop of the national anthem and the sound of vuvuzelas.

Government
Dozens of people wore fancy dress including 52-year-old father-of-two John Mortimer who went along dressed as a medieval knight.

Mr Mortimer, of Harvest Road, Smethwick, said: "I don't care a lot for our government but I do care for my country. Anyone who thinks the event is provocative doesn't know what they're talking about."

A red and white flag was also flying atop the 11th century Dudley Castle which is within the grounds of Dudley Zoo.

Chief executive Peter Suddock said: "The raising of the flag is part of a tradition at Dudley Zoo and we are all very proud to see it fly from one of the Midlands' best-loved landmarks."

The new vehicle was unveiled at Priory Park, Dudley – close to where the former Manchester United star was raised.

A sign bearing Duncan's name has been fitted to the outside of the bus and an information display about his life and achievements inside. The bus will run from Dudley

Bus is dedicated to Duncan



Dudley North MP Ian Austin and National Express operations director Simon Mathieson with the bus named in honour of Dudley football legend Duncan Edwards. A BUS has been dedicated to Dudley football legend Duncan Edwards at a ceremony held in his hometown.

The new vehicle was unveiled at Priory Park, Dudley – close to where the former Manchester United star was raised.

A sign bearing Duncan's name has been fitted to the outside of the bus and an information display about his life and achievements inside. The bus will run from Dudley

to Oldbury, Bearwood and Birmingham every week as part of the 120 service.

National Express West Midlands said it had decided to name the vehicle after Duncan to honour his achievements. Duncan died, aged 21, in the 1958 Munich Air Disaster. The bus dedication was unveiled by Dudley North MP Ian Austin. Mr Austin said: "I think he should be an inspiration to every young person."

Volunteer James is back from a mission

A YOUNG volunteer has returned to the Black Country following a three-month visit to Palestinians in Israel helping young people learn new skills.

James Bright, of Beckman Road, Stourbridge, wanted to make a difference to the lives of young people less fortunate than himself and decided on the trip.

The 21-year-old, who is a former student at Pedmore Technology College, Stourbridge, provided English language and career workshops for young Palestinians.

He was also part of a national youth summit. Mr Bright worked with development charity International Service and one of their partners in Palestine called the Sharek Youth Forum.

The trip took place as part of the government-funded International Citizen Service scheme which sends people aged 18 to 25 to the poorest parts of the world to help people there.

Alongside running workshops, Mr Bright and his team also got to travel around Israel in their spare time. He said the skills which he learned during the trip would also be of benefit to him in the future.

Firms record for borough

DUDLEY saw a record 58 new companies formed in March, according to new research.

Company formations experts Duport Associates said the number formed with registered offices in Dudley broke the previous monthly record of 56 set in March 2008.

"Dudley has always been an area for innovation," said managing director of Duport Peter Valaitis who said, whilst the West Midlands is experiencing a difficult period in recession, it's great to see Dudley showing entrepreneurial spirit.

Real ale festival

THE KIDDERMINSTER sub-branch of Camra is staging the Stourport Beer Festival next month.

It will run from May 25 to 27 at Stourport Boat Club's Boathouse in Riverside. Up to 30 different real ales will be featured along with a raffle for Kemp Hospice.

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Museum plans hit by delay

THE START of work on a long-awaited new £5 million glass museum has been delayed until next year as funding has not yet been confirmed.

Developers are applying for a £2 million European grant for the attraction, which will house the region's collections on the site of the old Stuart Crystal glassworks in Wordsley.

But they must find the remainder of the cash from other sources – including the Heritage Lottery and donations from members of the public. Work is not expected to start until spring.

Developers have admitted the project has been held back for longer than they hoped.

A fundraising drive has been launched by the British Glass Foundation – a charity set up to spearhead plans.

Bosses are also looking into possible Government grants to boost the scheme, which is expected to attract more than 500,000 visitors a year.

The process was held up last year when a huge blaze broke out in one of the old factory buildings, causing months of delays as bosses waited for an insurance claim to go through before repairs could be carried out.

Second hand shop booms

A FORMER midwife is seeing business boom since opening a shop selling second hand wedding and prom dresses for a fraction of their original prices.

Owner Natalie Neale has given up 14 years as a midwife to set up the Brides Revisited business in Wall Heath.

Mrs Neale, aged 39, has sold 20 dresses since setting up less than a month ago and has seen an influx of customers offering their second-hand frocks.

She has also started catering for mothers of the brides too.

Downton display

MORE than 1,200 people have visited an exhibition of costumes from hit television drama Downton Abbey at Himley Hall in just over a week.

Offits worn by Mary, Edith and Sybil Crawley and the Countess of Grantham are on show.

The exhibition runs until June 17.

Foundation status bid on health services

AN ORGANISATION in charge of community health services in Wyre Forest and the rest of Worcestershire has launched a bid to be put among the best in the country. Bosses want to establish a Foundation Trust by summer next year.

It would give Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust greater control of its affairs and funding as it would not be directly controlled by the Government.

Bosses would have more freedom to decide how best to develop and improve local services and how they spend public money.

Residents across the county would be allowed to apply to become members of the

trust and governors, with the ability to hold the newly-formed trust to account.

The community health services provide dental health assistance, help for people with learning disabilities, adult speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and podiatry.

People who sign up to become members will have a far greater say in how the services are run and how they are provided in the future.

There will also be the chance to stand for election as governors to sit on the council of governors which acts as a watchdog to ensure standards are met and suggest ways

to make improvements. The council also works alongside the health trust's board of directors.

Chief executive Sarah Dugan said: "We're committed to achieving NHS Foundation Trust status as we believe it is the right thing for our organisation, our patients, service users, carers and the wider Worcestershire community."

"We would like local residents to sign up and become members of our organisation. It's free to join and members will be able to learn more about what we do, as well as have the opportunity to influence the way our services are provided in the future and

ensure they accurately reflect local needs."

Residents can sign up to become members online by visiting www.hawc.nhs.uk or they can contact the membership office for an application form, or to find out more about the application process, on 01905 681425 or office@hawc.nhs.uk

Meanwhile, staff at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust are also working on a bid to become a Foundation Trust. The organisation is responsible for Kidderminster Hospital, the Alexandra in Redditch and the Worcestershire Royal Hospital in Worcester. Foundation Trusts are regulated by independent watchdog Monitor.

Better transport needed to secure Waterfront's future

MORE public transport links are needed to help safeguard the future of Brierley Hill's Waterfront office and leisure complex, says the president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce.

by Andrew Turton

Schemes for new business hubs at the i54 on the Staffordshire/Wolverhampton border and in Darlaston are already winning plaudits for boosting business opportunities in the region.

But the Waterfront is struggling with big names says Chamber president Paul Bennett.

He said Lloyds Banking group was among the most recent to pull out of the site.

"We have seen historically good occupancy levels at the Waterfront fall away, so we need to understand why the decline has happened and not only look at short term incentives but also more fundamental issues, such as better public transport links," he said.

A £5 million scheme to run passenger railcars on an existing freight line between the Waterfront and Stourbridge Junction station to link with mainline services to Birmingham, Worcester and London is being considered at the moment.

West Midlands Transport Authority Centre has

also announced a £10 million overhaul of bus services between the Waterfront and neighbouring Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

Cradley Heath solicitor Mr Bennett, who took over the role of president in April, welcomed moves by Dudley Council to introduce its own form of Enterprise Zone to the Waterfront complex and nearby Harts Hill area of Brierley Hill.

Concessionary

Under the scheme, businesses could be offered concessionary rates for potentially two years.

If fully occupied the Waterfront could hold up to 4,600 new jobs.

Mr Bennett said: "Business welcomes the initiative but the key challenge at the Waterfront is sustainability."

"This is all well and good if greater occupancy can be the catalyst for rapid further regeneration and particularly improvement in infrastructure."



Marie Brooke, aged 41, manager at Headstart hairdressers in West Bromwich, with salon staff, who feel the proposed new EU ruling over high heels are silly

Digging in heels on rules

HAIRDRESSERS are pulling their hair out over proposed new EU rules banning them from wearing high heels and jewellery while in the workplace.

The proposed red tape making their hair curl would also order them to have "social dialogue" with colleagues – and cut the number of customers a stylist can deal with in a day to prevent "emotional collapse."

Quarry Bank salon owner Marcus Perkins said: "This is pathetic – it's a bunch of men in suits in Brussels trying to dictate to hairdressers."

"Telling women they can't wear high heels is like telling them they can't wear make-up," added Mr Perkins.

Mr Perkins, owner of M&M Spa in High Street, Quarry Bank, added: "We just don't need useless jargon like this."

Marie Brooke, manager of Headstart in Lodge Road, West Bromwich, said: "I can understand saying hairdressers shouldn't wear high heels at work but the rest of these proposed regulations are silly."

Country band play at centre

A BUNCH of "cowboys" is hoping to take lots of money for charity in a village near Stourbridge.

Bev Pegg and his Cowboy Band will make its annual appearance at Hagley Community Centre on May 16 for an event, organised by the Rotary Club of Stourbridge. Bev's six-piece band has established itself on the UK country scene.

Their CD "Come Along Boys And Listen To My Tale" was chosen as CD of the month on UK Country Radio recently.

Fitness classes schedule laid out

NEW fitness classes are going to be held at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre, Bell Street.

Morning sessions starting between 9.30am and 12.15pm cost from £4.20.

They include low impact aerobics on Mondays with legs, bums and tums sessions on Tuesdays.

Aquafit, bodyjam workouts on Wednesdays, aerobics on Thursdays and aquafit and body combat on Fridays. Various yoga classes run every morning from Monday to Friday.

Scout will get to see the Queen

A BRAVE teenager who suffers from a debilitating bone condition has been invited to Windsor Castle after winning a scouting medal for his courage.

Explorer scout Ben Hart, aged 16, of Pedmore, Stourbridge, will take part in the National Scout Service and Parade on April 29, watched by The Queen. Last November he earned the Medal for Meritorious Conduct.

Fete is aiming to raise cancer cash

A SUMMER fete will raise money for Cancer Support Dudley next month.

It has been organised by the charity's Skin Cancer Group and aims to raise awareness of how to stay safe in the sun.

There will be stalls selling at the event which will run from 10am to 4pm on May 12 at The White House in Ednam Road.

Solar panels plan

THE Wordsley School, Brierley Hill Road has submitted a planning application to Dudley Council to fit solar panels to help cut down on its electricity bills.

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Business Affairs

by John Chapman & Jeremy Lloyd
5-12 May

To help smooth the sale of their failing haulage business to a pair of European businessmen, Stanley and Norman arrange to complete the deal in a smart London hotel. They even arrange for the services of two sophisticated 'ladies of the night' to help celebrate, once the deal is complete. Everything is going smoothly until Stanley and Norman's wives make an unexpected appearance, causing pandemonium and an ever spiralling web of lies and deceit which keeps everyone on their toes. This chaotic farce has been co-written by Jeremy Lloyd who gave us 'Are You Being Served' and 'Allo Allo'.

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THE BEST
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RHODES

THE irritatingly hunky and handsome Daniel Craig says in the next Bond film he will be swapping his trademark Martini for lager. Oh, please let it be shaken.

□□□□□□□□

ABDEL Hakim Belhadi, once a rebel against Gaddafi but now a senior military commander in Libya, is taking legal action personally against Jack Straw to find out if Straw signed papers allowing him to be handed over for torture. But Straw was merely home secretary at the time.

His boss was Tony Blair. Is this the beginning of a process which will finally bring Blair to account? Or will it once again be impossible to make any mud stick to "Teflon Tone"?

□□□□□□□□

TIPS for a particularly wet drought. If the hosepipe ban is introduced, do not put your hose away. You may need it to pump out the cellar.

□□□□□□□□

IN THE days when the Olympic Games were about more than turning athletes into advertising placards, there were categories to find the world's best writers, poets, sculptors and even town planners. This reflected the belief that mankind may excel in more things than running, jumping or beach volleyball.

There are hints that the London Olympics this summer may feature some innovative events. After the 2011 riots, the St Paul's tent city and the Boat Race disruption, it is reckoned that Britain now has some of the most successful protesters in the world. Activists are threatening to block the traffic lanes reserved for sponsors and VIPs. They boast of making the Games "unworkable." Freestyle urban disruption: I bet it's a damn sight more interesting than the dressage.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

£7m bus interchange now up and running

STOURBRIDGE'S new £7million bus station is ready to welcome its first passengers, heralding the start of the town's long-awaited regeneration programme.

The Stourbridge Interchange opened Sunday and is the first major development in the town centre for more than 20 years. The complex, with all the latest technology, paves the way for the next redevelopment project in the town - a £50million Tesco supermarket and shopping centre.

Theatre mayhem

A HALESOWEN theatre company is hoping to prove their play's immortality when they attempt to win a Midlands competition this weekend.

Mayhem Theatre Group's production of Mere Mortals will compete against others in the region in the All England Theatre Festival event, at The Little Theatre, Donnington, Telford, on Saturday.

Mayhem won six awards in the competition's last round, including two for Final 45 Live, another of the group's recent plays.

Madcap comedy Mere Mortals, by David Ives. The entire play takes place on a girder, in a homage to the famous picture of New York workmen having lunch on a girder. For more information call Mark Moran on 07973 779496.

Among the features of the new station are information displays which show bus but train times - and a large touch screen in the main concourse gives options for passengers to plan their routes.

A Spar store will also open there. In the future, the displays will receive information straight from the vehicles to tell passengers when services are running late.

Built on the site of the town's old bus station the new Interchange will be a base for more than 30 bus services.

Anthony Johnson, project manager for Centro, said: "It's an iconic building that has created a stunning landmark that should encourage future growth and development in Stourbridge."

More than 300 people were involved in the construction. The combined glass in the walls of the buildings measures 750 square metres.



Ready for the official opening of the Stourbridge Interchange this weekend are transport operations and performance manager Suzanne Page, project manager Anthony Johnson and bus station and interchanges manager Angie Boulton



Stourbridge's £7 million landmark bus station, which opens on Sunday

Butcher seeking to recoup his losses

A TRADER who claims to have been left thousands of pounds out of pocket after works outside his shop caused business to plummet has launched a bid for compensation.

Temporary traffic lights were installed along Quarry Bank High Street for a scheme to replace old gas pipes last month, sparking long traffic queues even at quieter times.

Work has since moved to side streets around the town but businesses along the street say they are still counting the cost of the scheme - although trade has now picked up.

Trader John Walker, who has run Hawthorne and Walker butchers for 35 years, said he was now seeking compensation from National Grid Transco.

Mr Walker said in the first week the works were in place trade had dropped by more than £1,000, he added he had lost too much trade and he wanted to recoup some of it. National Grid spokesman Jane Taylor said work was due for completion in around four weeks.

Heroes helped

A NIGHT of entertainment at Sedgley Conservative Club raised more than £500 for forces charity Help for Heroes. Members filled boxes with treats that went to troops in Afghanistan.

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Contest to design a local flag

A CONTEST has been launched to find an official flag for the region – to be flown at the Black Country Living Museum in time for the Olympics.

The winning design that reflects the Black Country will be added to the Flag Institute's UK Flag Registry and will be flown at the museum in Dudley.

The Parliamentary Flags & Heraldry Committee is encouraging communities and regions to develop their own flags to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.

Museum bosses say they are looking for a design that will "wave the banner for the region's unique identity, and its rich and diverse heritage".

Philip Tibbetts, adviser to the Parliamentary Flags and Heraldry Committee, said: "I am really pleased to see the Black Country Living Museum championing the whole region with this competition."

The deadline for entries is June 10 and entry forms are available online and from the museum admission desk. The winner will be announced on July 14.

Sounds of soul

A NORTHERN soul and motown night will be held at Dudley Concert Hall next month.

Six DJs will be spinning the discs from 8pm at Dudley Concert Hall on May 12. Tickets are available from the box office on 01384 812812.

Rural watch is set up after spate of attacks on sheep

Farmers in villages on the outskirts of the Black Country have set up a rural watch group after a spate of attacks in which sheep have been killed or left with their legs tied up. Gunshots have been heard at night and fences stolen in the crime wave hitting the countryside in an area bordered by Stourbridge, Halesowen and Kidderminster.

£12,000 to aid children

A DUDLEY charity has been boosted by a £12,000 donation from events during the last year at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Rollercoasters, which looks after 40 children with physical and learning disabilities, was the centre's chosen charity in 2011 – and will be supported again this year.

The £12,387 total came from events including the Big Bear Bash, the largest two-day outdoor family festival in the Midlands, and a ball at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill. The funding raised will go towards the charity's activities which include ice-skating, farm trips and sensory workshops.

The money raised will also help pay for staff training, nurses and wheelchair accessible buses which transport people to the activities.

Kelly Reed, marketing manager at Merry Hill, said: "We would like to say a big thank you to everybody who attended our charity events last year as they helped us to make such a generous donation to Rollercoasters."

Joanne Campbell, head co-ordinator at Rollercoasters, said: "We are absolutely overwhelmed by the amazing support shown by the Westfield team. The donation will pay to train our staff and volunteer team to enable us to provide the safe, quality specialist care that is essential."

At least six sheep have been found dead, some savaged with bite wounds. On three other occasions lambs have been found left by gates with their legs bound ready for collection.

A gang of around five poachers with torches was spotted near sheep on one occasion but when challenged by a farmer they ran off.

It is thought sheep are being taken to feed terriers or "blood" them to give them a taste for illegal poaching.

Police have launched extra patrols in the area and farmers in Broome, Clent, Romsley, Blakedown and Chaddesley Corbett have set up Rural Watch in a bid to end the disturbing incidents, which started about a month ago.

Distressing

"It's very distressing when you've bred sheep from birth to find them dead or tied up," said Stuart Geggie, who farms in Romsley, near Halesowen.

Mr Geggie found three sheep dead and one ewe injured after a dog attack on land he rents in the Pedmore area of Stourbridge, several weeks ago.

In a separate attack two of Mr Geggie's ewes were left with their feet tied together. Police called a meeting, attended by eight farmers and landowners last week at Broome, when the Rural Watch was set up.

"Rural Watch" chairman Ernest Lane, said: "There have been random incidents going on for about a month."

Pc Andy Wallace appealed for anyone seeing anything suspicious to contact police 101 or 999 in an emergency.



Sheep fears – Rural Watch organiser Ernest Lane with Councillor Ann Nation

NEWS in brief

150 homes plan is given backing

UP TO 150 homes look set to be built near an industrial estate in Stourbridge despite an outcry from residents and businesses.

The plans have sparked concerns from nearby businesses which have claimed the development would be a "recipe for disaster".

The land on the Sunrise Business Park site includes Sunrise Medical Ltd. The proposals have been recommended for approval.

The land in High Street, Wollaston, neighbours both the River Stour and Stourbridge Canal.

Town is hosting country festival

A WORCESTERSHIRE town is hosting an annual, free, two-day festival celebrating the sounds, styles and dances of country music. The Country and Western Festival will be held on August 18 and 19 at Riverside Meadows, Stourport.

Events will run from noon until 8pm on the Saturday and 10am to 5pm Sunday. For overnight camping apply to Alison.bakr@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Library will shut to get spruce up

A LIBRARY in Halesowen will close for two weeks while it is redecorated.

Self-service machines will be installed at Long Lane Library while work takes place between April 23 and May 5.

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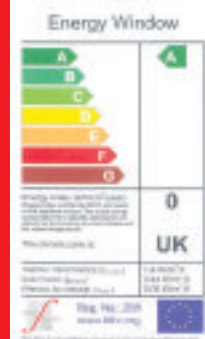
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thechronicle

Grapple promoter remembered



Wrestler Lee Massey with Russells Hall Coronary Care Unit sister Jo Gubbins

WRESTLERS from across the region raised £550 in memory of a much-loved promoter, who died aged 63.

The cash will go to the coronary care unit at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, where Keith Massey was treated before his death last September. Mr Massey, of Tividale, ran Future Championship Wrestling for nine years. Grapplers Jack Storm and A Star

Athlete took part in a battle royale won by Mr Massey's son Lee.

Joel Allen, who has taken over from Mr Massey as promoter, said: "If it wasn't for Keith a lot of the wrestlers would never have got the chance to get in the ring." FCW's next show is on April 29 at 7pm at Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre. Visit www.fcwrestling.co.uk

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LETTERS

thechronicle

Don't sneer at comfortable life

I WAS shocked to read a recent letter from a lady who married in 1962 and brought a child into the world to live in a condemned house with no hot water or inside toilet.

It read like a melodrama from a bygone age, not one where birth control was widely available to married women.

We married in 1966. We had a church wedding, with a white dress for me which cost 21 guineas. One bridesmaid, one best man and a wedding breakfast for a dozen guests at the Park Hall Hotel.

Everyone chose their meal from the

menu, there was pretend champagne, and we paid for absolutely everything ourselves. I was 20 and he was 21.

Our home was the rented upstairs rooms of a house, and with the landlords agreement, and financial support, we decorated all the rooms we had to our own choice.

At the same time my new husband worked three shifts at Goodyear's, and I worked 40 hours a week in an office. It was a time of full employment.

Pay had risen quite a lot in an effort by employers to keep good workers, so with slaving and saving we soon had the deposit for our own home.

We moved in with a new cooker, and a new bed, everything else was begged or borrowed. Yes I am sure there was real poverty around in those days, and not everyone was lucky enough to enjoy either the good health or the will to make a better life for themselves.

The fact that many people did enjoy a quality of life then with more money, more comfort, and more choice which they continue to enjoy now through their own hard work should not be sneered at.

MRS V STARKEY
Woodsetton
Dudley

Typical lack of foresight by council on parking

HOW typical of Dudley Council, "plans for multi-storey car park are put on hold" whilst they await the outcome of other developments in the town centre.

Presumably they mean the impact of the massive building programme for Dudley College, which has resulted in the loss of so much convenient parking space close to the town centre.

Surely this monitoring should have taken place before this building project was passed.

I won't hold my breath for any of the planned regeneration proposed for Dudley, the same as the plans for Stourbridge scheduled to culminate in 2025.

A very long way off.
MRS L SHELTON
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Semi-finals threw up many questions

WE SAT through two FA Cup semi-finals that have thrown up some very interesting problems.

First, why do the FA insist on semis being played at Wembley? On Saturday, we had two Liverpool clubs playing each other. Why couldn't they have played at Old Trafford so supporters don't have to travel so far?

Who are the better supporters, Liverpool fans who stayed to the end or the fickle London lot who left the ground ages before the end of the match?

People pay a lot of money to go to any football match these days, and it is an insult to the players to leave before the end. The Spurs lot were disgraceful.

When are the games administrators going to admit that TV/video goal line technology is vital? If the Chelsea second goal had been disallowed, wouldn't this have made for a better and possibly different result? Spurs players were obviously gutted by the match officials' actions. Rugby has had this facility for some time, so why are the FA bods dragging their feet? Couldn't the UK FA go it alone?

PETER COLE, Chelford Crescent, Kingswinford

Real ale's a reason for pride in region

I LOVE real ale. This one of the many reasons I feel blessed to live in the Black Country and Sedgley in particular.

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The Beacon Hotel and its micro brewery is a particular example of the kind of establishment that is envied for miles around. We have a lot to be proud of in our area. Cheers to all of our great pubs, one of the many reasons why its great to be from the Black Country!

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Fund to aid celebrations

COMMUNITY groups in Wyre Forest will benefit from a special fund created to help people plan events to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June.

Wyre Forest District Council has awarded grants ranging from £75 to £500 to organisations who want to celebrate 60 years of The Queen's reign.

They include a musical event in Chaddesley Corbett thanks to a £350 boost.

Kemp Hospice has received £150 to support a Jubilee themed 1952 sports day with stalls for young carers.

Market plan rejected

PROPOSALS for a weekly Saturday market in Halesowen have been thrown out amid fears it would harm trade and force shops to shut.

Traders, councillors and bosses at the town's Cornbow Shopping Centre objected to plans to hold a farmers', craft and general market on town centre streets each Saturday.

At present a 35-stall market is held on alternate Saturdays.

But operator Steve Evans felt a weekly event would help establish the market as a regular shopping destination.

However, Dudley Council's licensing sub-committee decided to refuse Mr

Evans' application at a hearing last week.

Sub committee chairman Councillor Alan Taylor said present frequency of the market, which can be held up to three times a month, gave a "balance" for the community and for shoppers.

Speaking at the meeting, Cornbow Centre manager, Eve O'Connor, said stalls already "obliterate" the view of shop fronts on market days.

Busiest

"The shops are paying their business rates and they can't be seen on their busiest trading day," she said.

"We feel that the market is evolving over time with the outcome that it will become a general market and it is felt from the businesses that they are

having to compete against it as well as find the overheads that they have to pay," she added.

Halesowen chamber of trade chairman, Steve Fitzpatrick, speaking at the meeting, added: "I feel that a market held every Saturday would cause problems for the shops that are already there."

"I feel that if we have a market there every Saturday shops will close."

The market's size was increased to 35 last October to allow 10 "general" stalls which could sell a variety of goods.

Mr Evans' spokesman Dermot McGillicuddy, said during the meeting: "It is confusing for people to know when the market is on."

£1m pot will be set up to give firms a booster

A £1 MILLION fund will be set up to help support small businesses in Dudley after being backed by councillors.

Dudley Council will invest £500,000 over the next two years.

This will create the business loan fund with the remainder of the cash being provided by the European Development Fund.

At a meeting of the full council last week, members unanimously voted to support the scheme.

The council has argued the lack of available credit from banks had been cited as a key factor for why business performance had fallen over the past year.

Small firms in the borough will be able

to get a loan from the fund which will be administered by the Black Country Reinvestment Society.

Loans will be given at commercial rates to improve access to finance.

It is estimated the fund would be able to support 40 businesses in the borough, create up to 30 jobs and safeguard a further 60.

Council leader Councillor Les Jones has admitted there was a risk some of the cash may not be paid back if a business failed but said it was a risk which needed to be taken.

He said: "This will be extremely good news for small businesses looking to invest and expand."

BANBURY

Homes & Gardens

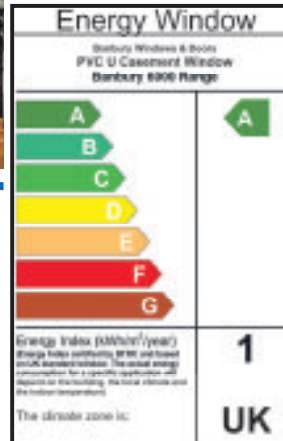
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Wolves were the Provincial League winners in 1963



Ole Olsen and World Championship Trophy



Howard Cole riding for Wolves in 60s



Sam Ermolenko leading a race at Monmore Green



Freddie Lindgren with young Wolves fan Lewis Squires

Revived speedway team was on track for success

A NEW speedway season is underway at Monmore Green, where Wolverhampton Wolves are striving to achieve the success of a couple of years ago when they were Elite League Champions.

Speedway came to Wolverhampton as long ago as 1928, but only lasted until 1930, though grass track racing was always popular. The sport was revived in 1951 with the formation of the Wolverhampton Wasps, but it folded again in 1954.

A new team, the Wolves, were formed in 1961, riding at Monmore Green in the Midland League Championship, winning it in 1962, and becoming Provincial League Champions in 1963.

Apart from a couple of years the Wolves have consistently competed in the top flight of British Speedway ever

MEMORY LANE

by Alec Brew

since, becoming British League Champions in 1991, and Premier League winners in 1996.

They have won the current Elite League in 2002 and 2009, making them a rather more successful set of Wolves than the other team across the city at Molineux.

Honour

Two world speedway champions have ridden for the team. The great Dane, Ole Olsen, rode for the team from 1971 to 1975 and twice became world champion in that time, his fame transcending the sport. His name was often chanted at the football ground around that time. He went on to

become world champion a third time after he had left Wolves, one of the greatest riders of all time.

The Californian, Sam Ermolenko, rode for Wolves for many years and became World Champion in 1993 an honour which eluded his fellow countryman, 'Rocket' Ronnie Correy, who also rode for Wolves in the 90s.

In more recent times the stars of the team have been two Swedes, the long serving, Peter Karlsson, who captained the team to the 2009 Championship, and the electric Freddie Lindgren who was top points scorer that year, and consistently ever since.

Coming to the fore recently has been the young rider from Scunthorpe, Tai Woffinden.

This season has not started as well as might have been expected but fans hope the team can still achieve the success of earlier years.



Hasse Holmqvist, a Wolves rider from the 70s

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thechronicle

Asda pull the plug over appeal against council

ASDA chiefs have withdrawn an appeal on plans for a 40,000 sq ft superstore in Kidderminster after they complained to planning inspectors in Bristol, over council chiefs taking too long to decide on a proposed Churchfields store.

The move would have taken the decision on the scheme's go-ahead or not, out of the hands of councillors and had left traders who were objecting to the scheme furious.

But Asda has now dropped its appeal and would be reconsidering its plans for a super-market in the town.

Oliver Jones, property communications manager for Asda, said: "We have withdrawn the appeal but we remain interested in investing in Kidderminster and look forward to working with the council to find an alternative site."

It had appealed on the grounds that the plans, which would create 370 jobs, took more than 13 weeks to reach the committee stage.

Planners at Wyre Forest District Council had recommended the application for refusal amid fears it would hit other traders and scupper the council's regeneration plans. Nearby businesses have campaigned against the development, arguing their row of independent shops would become cut-off.

Council leader John Campion said: "We look forward to continuing to work with Asda to find a more appropriate location within the town that will enable them to invest in Kidderminster."

Dog doubled-up by daffs



Don't eat the flowers - Kathleen Pottinger with daffodil-munching Riley

RILEY the labrador bit off more than he could chew when he wolfed down some daffodils from his owner's garden.

His unusual snack left him unable to stand up straight and he kept wobbling and stumbling.

Kathleen Pottinger, aged 73, rushed her six-month-old pet to the vets. Riley is now recovering at home in Queens Road, Tipton, from

daffodil poisoning where his temperature soared and he suffered a fit.

Mrs Pottinger's daughter Linsey Robinson, 36, who lives next door, said: "He looked like he was drunk. He kept falling over. We knew something was seriously wrong." Vet Joy Day said daffodil poisoning was rare because of the taste of the plants but Riley was now fully recovered.

Saddle up for good cause

CYCLISTS across the West Midlands are wanted to saddle up for an annual fundraising event for Acorns Children's Hospice.

The annual Severn Valley Cycle Challenge will take place on August 19 and residents can choose a 10 mile or 20 mile route. The 20-mile route will start from Bridgnorth and the 10-mile at Severn Valley Country Park. Participants will be returned to the starting point by train. Call 0844 984 0405 or log on to www.acorns.org.uk/cycle



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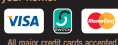


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MASTERCARD

Choir celebrates hitting right notes for 100 years

MORE than 600 people attended a concert to celebrate a Black Country choir's centenary year.

Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir performed at Brierley Hill Civic Hall at the weekend.

It was supported by Warley Male Choir, singer Julie Knight and jazz group The Crown Phoenix Big Band.

More than £3,000 was raised from the concert, which will go to the Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Publicity officer Terry Lawrence, who has been associated with the group for the past eight years, said: "It's always a tremendous honour to perform here in the Black Country."

"We are a Black Country choir and we are proud of our identity. To reach 100 years is a fantastic achievement."

Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir was first formed on February 12, 1912, after a meeting inviting any men to take part in a musical society.

Its first public performance as the Cradley Heath, Old Hill and District Male Voice Choir took place at the Whitley Memorial School that year.

It continued performing and staging charity concerts until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 when all competition was suspended.

The choir returned at the end of the war and in 1919 took first prize in its first post-conflict competition in Halesowen. Rehearsals now take place on Mondays from 7.30pm at the Methodist Church, Quarry Road, Dudley Wood.



Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir, front, performs supported by Warley Male Choir, wearing black jackets and conducted by Philipa Brettell

Centre offering snappers course aimed at novices

COURSES in photography and beekeeping are being held at the Bishops Wood Centre near Stourport. Digital Photography for Beginners runs over two-hour sessions on a Tuesday morning over 11 weeks starting on May 1 until July 17 from 10am to midday. The photography course costs £85.

Some one-day courses are also available. The "Bee Wise" course is an introduction to bees and beekeeping.

It takes place on May 19 and costs £50, running from 10am until 4pm.

Students will be taught about bees' role in nature, their instincts and behaviour.

Gill Frankling, centre co-ordinator said: "Our tranquil surroundings make Bishops Wood the ideal place to learn and enjoy the natural environment. With differing scenes each season to focus on."

For information visit www.bishopswoodcentre.org.uk, email bishopswoodcentre@worcestershires.gov.uk or call 01299 250513.

Rambles in the country

WEEKDAY rambles across the Clent Hills have been organised for lovers of the countryside.

The rambles cost £2 and set off from the Nimmings Wood car park, lasting from 10am to 1pm.

Rambles are planned for May 9, June 13, July 11, September 12, October 10, November 14 and December 12.

For more information call Laura Broadhurst on 01562 712822 or laura.broadhurst@nationaltrust.org.uk

Swimming lessons for parents and youngsters

SPECIAL swimming lessons for parents and toddlers are being staged at the Crystal Leisure Centre.

The centre is offering the 30-minute swimming sessions, which includes tuition from qualified instructors, on Tuesdays at 9.45am and 10.15am and on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2pm and 2.30pm.

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Parents are encouraged to enrol as soon as possible on to one of the courses, which run weekly, excluding Whitsun half term until the school summer holiday begins. For more information call the centre on 01384 812800 or people can log on to the website www.dudley.gov.uk/sport.

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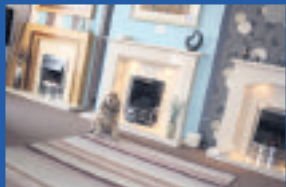
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Hats off
to bonny
bonnets

Previous president
takes on role again

**K'FORD
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CIRCLE**

THE April meeting was full of spring colour as 11 members wore their Easter bonnets. Admiration went to Sylvia whose creation was adorned with fresh flowers. Audrey Phipps gave a warm welcome to the members and the speaker for the evening, Mrs Jean Burton. Two new members joined this month.

The secretary and the treasurer gave their reports. Names were taken for the trip to Stratford and the lunch at the Whittington. Joan and Val are holding a fundraising afternoon tea at 3pm, on May 22. The cost is £5.

Mrs Burton gave a light-hearted informal talk on her hobby of entering competitions. She brought in numerous grocery items all of which had a competition on the packaging. There are various methods by which one can enter and the prizes are as diverse as holidays, appliances and theatre shows. She gave hints on how to make your entries "noticeable" and also advised on the types of competitions not to enter.

Irene Hemphrys gave a vote of thanks. Frances Smith and Linda Taylor won the raffle. The next meeting is on May 3 at The British Legion. Rod Quilter will talk about corsets.



Incoming president Gail Wedge, left with previous incumbent Julia Jordan

CLUB members reviewed activities during the previous year at the Annual General Meeting.

Thanks were given to outgoing President Julia Jordan and her executive committee, before welcoming new President Gail Wedge into office.

Gail served previously as president during 2003/04 and again as part of Team Seventy in 2006/07 when a group of former presidents shared the role to celebrate the club's 70th year. She also served as regional

**WOLVERHAMPTON
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president, representing the 14 Clubs in the Midland Chase Region during 2009/10.

Gail's chosen charities include the Acorns Children's Hospice and the Footprints Orphanage near Mombasa. Events already planned for the year include celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games.

Talented artist gives talk**SEDGLEY
MORNING
TOWNSWOMEN**

THERE was a good attendance at the AGM. The committee for last year agreed to stand again and were duly voted in.

After the business of the day and coffee the meeting ended with a quiz.

At the April meeting, the ladies listened to a very interesting talk and slide show entitled "Confessions

of an Artist", given by Geoff Tristram, a talented illustrator and cartoonist. It was a very interesting and humorous talk. There is no meeting on

May 3 because of the local elections, but members are looking forward to an outing to Stratford-on-Avon including a river trip on May 24.

Members continue to enjoy theatre trips, the bowls group was due to start its season on April 25 and the Floral Arts Group continues to meet every second Tuesday.

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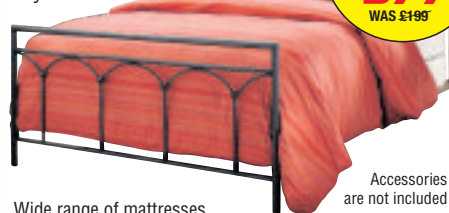
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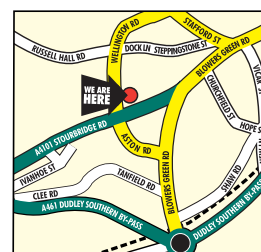
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We are all constantly encouraged (and sometimes even forced) into re-cycling to save the planet and look after future generations. It makes sense in most cases, (even if the reward is intangible) to refurbish, amend or alter what we already have in our possession..

There are however a few instances where you can get a reward, where the benefit is personal and not just for the good of the planet. It's proof that re-cycling works on many levels, saving not only materials and resources but more importantly our hard earned cash.

Take for example our clothing; we have been led along the path of buying cheap then disposing of once it has lost its shape and form. Cheap clothing – rarely manufactured to last, has flooded the High Street and appears to be very economical. By getting our garments altered when they become too small or large, we retain the quality and cut that we originally invested in. Size and style can be altered to ensure that the garment is not only correctly fitted but also contemporary.

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There is at least one watch or clock in every household that stopped working some time ago and is redundant but kept for posterity. In many cases all is required is a simple repair or refurbishment but we usually opt to buy new as it is assumed that the cost of improvement outweighs the benefit. This could not be further from the truth as to buy on a like for like basis would usually be much greater than a mend.

The quality of workmanship you can expect at S & N Hodgkins can only come as a result of many decades of devotion to the discipline. A second generation of the Hodgkins family continue to provide this specialist service which gains custom from all over the West Midlands. All you need to do is take your time piece to them and they will inspect and provide you with a free quotation.

Clothing Alterations



We all have a section in our wardrobe where hangs the favourite suit, jacket or outfit that we love but no longer fits us. We keep it in the hope that one day it will fit again and will make us look and feel as special as we did on the day we bought it. It is one of those

items that we would buy again if only we could, in a size that fits our existing shape. In years gone by it would have been altered usually by a female relative (the one that owned the Singer!) but sadly this is less common these days as the skill base we once had is

disappearing fast.

We all alter shape as we travel through the days of our lives, sometimes due to a more sedentary life style or unhealthy diet, or sometimes due to circumstances beyond our control such as medical conditions, operations or illness.

The solution is easier than you might think. At Clothing Alterations you can have items altered to fit you properly. The key is in the shaping and pinning, which to the outsider appears like black magic, but as any dress-maker or tailor knows, getting this

right is imperative and requires skills gained over many years of attention to detail. Suits, Trousers, Dresses and leather goods can be altered or repaired and even simple zip replacements can be undertaken by these experts in their field.

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The irony is that watches or clocks made years ago are of excellent quality, originally made to pass down from generation to generation, built to stand the test of time and as such are solidly made.

This makes their repair and refurbishment not only viable but worthwhile as to purchase like for like as new would cost significantly more.

S & N Hodgkins are amongst the best in their field, with the second generation of Hodgkins Horologists now earning a living in this fast disappearing discipline.

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So dig out those time pieces and get S & N Hodgkins to get them ticking for you again.



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thechronicle

Dancing 'darling' of soul music dies, 58

A BLACK COUNTRY dancing queen who was the "darling" of soul music clubs in the region, has died after an 18-month battle against cancer.

Helen Pereira's husband, Ian, a disc jockey nicknamed Pep, describing her as "queen of the go-go" and his "beloved wife and soulmate of 40 years", has paid a moving tribute to her.

Helen, whose maiden name was Holmes and originally from Coseley, died in hospital in Aberystwyth, aged 58.

She became a massive fan of northern soul in its heyday of the late 1960s and early 1970s - and was later "soul mother" to a new generation of fans of the music after she and Pep opened the Downtown record shops in Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, and Stafford Street, Walsall.

"She attended local discotheques like those at Stewart & Lloyd's, Bilston where she first began to hone her considerable dance skills," said Pep, originally from Stourbridge. The couple have a son, Ryan, aged 15.

The funeral will be held at 2pm Thursday April 26 at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, followed by a reception at the nearby Labour in Vain pub.

Cooking up way to raise funding



Laura Nolan of The Nuthouse Bakery and Andy Jarrett, from the MS Society, with some of her cakes

A BAKER is offering to pass on her skills to the winners of a charity competition looking for the best photos of tea parties.

The Nuthouse in Brierley Hill is taking part in the Cake Break for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, which is asking people to send images of them gathering to eat cakes they have baked themselves.

The best entries will get a lesson of their choice with bakery owner Laura Nolan. Cake Break takes place on May 4 as part of MS Week, to raise awareness. Miss Nolan said: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to be involved with the MS Society, the work they do is incredible."

Andy Jarrett, area fundraiser at the MS Society, said: "Cake Break is a fun way to raise vital funds for the MS Society. Although the official date is May 4, it can ultimately happen any time." To get involved order a host pack at www.mssociety.org.uk/cakebreak or call 08454811577.

Annual bat walk will be held at castle site

A POPULAR annual bat walk will be held through the grounds of Hartlebury Castle near Kidderminster.

Visitors will be able to find out more about the creatures during the event at 7.30pm on May 18 that will be hosted by the Worcestershire Bat Group, which will give a presentation before the walk.

Those on the walk will be able to use detection equipment to search out the bats. Tickets must be booked and cost £16 for adults and £8 for children, including a meal before the walk. Visitor experience manager Rachel Robinson said: "It will be a really exciting chance for families to experience the museum site after dark and hopefully meet some of our furry friends."

Other events planned for later this year include a behind the scenes look at the site's museum, a walk around the castle looking at its archaeological and architectural features and a chance to learn about the castle's Hurd Library.



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Artist Shirley Wright and her 5ft tall paintings of William and Kate

Shirley and son show their talent at London exhibition

IT WAS one of the most photographed events of the 21st century, but now the Royal Wedding has been painted in a new light by artist Shirley Wright.

Her pictures of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are among several of her collection that she plans to show off in an exhibition in London. And joining her in the display is her son Richard McDonnell, who has inherited his mother's talent. He will

be display some of his intricate stencilling work while Shirley will exhibit off her acrylic and oil paintings at the Brick Lane Gallery, Brixton.

Shirley, from Swindon, near Kingswinford, spent around a month creating William and Kate on canvas, which stand at around 5ft high, and will now accompany her to events such as wedding shows, where she meets couples interesting in having their portraits painted.

Now she is planning a shared exhibition in London with her son Richard, who enjoys stencilling. Shirley, 51,

said: "Richard and I are quite different artists but we work well together - and I love his work."

"I encourage him with his art, however, it wasn't something my parents wanted me to go into."

"After leaving school they thought art college would turn me into a hippie so I worked in a shipping office instead."

Shirley grew up in Bradford and moved to Swindon eight years ago with her husband John and children Lucy, 27, Ellie, 19, and Richard, 15.

Shirley, who runs an art class on Friday mornings in the village, said she started doing portraits of friends and family.

South Staffordshire Council asked Shirley to paint two pictures of steelworkers for the Swindon Community Centre.

She has also created a mosaic at St John's School, which is now on the front of the main building.

She has painted portraits for Compton Hospice, a piece of abstract art for Wombourne leisure centre and has also created a number of pub signs.

Happy

They include ones at the Old Bush, Swindon, The Cat, Enville and the Foresters Arms, Wollaston.

Recently she worked with Wombourne High Flyers, which is a group for adults with learning difficulties, to produce a three-dimensional Pegasus for their new premises.

"As well as painting weddings and other happy portraits I have also been asked to create posthumous paintings in order to help clients with the grieving process,"



Like mother like son - Shirley and son Richard

she says. Shirley's work has been exhibited at a number of venues. These include the Millennium Dome and Ely Cathedral and examples of her paintings can be seen at www.shirleywright.co.uk

Richard, who is a pupil at Edgecliff High School, Kinver, said he started stencilling when he was 11-years-old.

"My mum has done exhibitions before but our joint show at Brick Lane later this year will be fantastic," he said.

It is expected a date will be set for the show in autumn.

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One of Shirley's paintings with a wildlife theme

Protest at proposed NHS moves

CHANGES to the NHS will "badly affect" people living in Dudley borough and residents may not realise the full impact until it is too late, campaigners say.

Members of Dudley Coalition Against the Cuts staged a meeting last week to raise awareness of what the recently passed Health and Social Care Bill will mean for the area.

And they said fears were growing among health professionals the bill will open the door for the privatisation of some NHS services putting "profit before patients".

The group, made up of trade unions and community groups, said it may also lead to patients having to make financial contributions to some treatments.

Spokesman Jerry Langford said action was needed to get the bill overturned.

Property man joins the experts

A FORMER police officer from Hagley is to sit on an expert panel at the Property Business Show in London.

Richard Dalton and his wife Emma set up their Contact Counts business in February to sell their online property tracking system.

It enables estate agents to offer their clients an around the clock opportunity to track the progress of their house sale.

Mr Dalton, aged 31, said: "I wanted to help agents and house sellers connect more effectively during what is often a stressful process."

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"I also wanted to create a better way for businesses and consumers to communicate electronically."

He will discuss the future of estate agency work.

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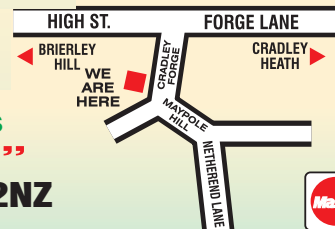


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• **Wed:** Full day out to the beautiful city of Bath

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Stay at the Waldorf for just £127

It's true! Now you can stay at this 5 star legendary London Hotel for a very special price on this wonderful mini break from GB Tours...

Just look what's included...

Meet our coach on Sunday morning as we head to London. We should arrive in Knightsbridge early afternoon near Harrods so you can enjoy a few hours free time to browse the shops or have lunch.

We'll arrive at the Waldorf hotel around 4pm. After you've settled in (if you can drag yourself away from the hotel!) you'll find everything is on your doorstep so, you can enjoy this evening on the town or sipping cocktails in the hotel's stylish bar.

Monday morning: A full cooked 'Waldorf' breakfast is included and afterwards a treat for you (if you'd like to join in). A guided 'Waldorf' tour. You'll see parts usually 'off limits' to guests and hear stories of the rich and famous guests! The rest of the day is left free for you to enjoy London.

We've one more treat in store. A beautiful afternoon tea in the Waldorf before we depart for home.

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Cornwall Beautiful 4 star hotel overlooking Fistral Beach..5 day trip £206

It's true! You can now have a fantastic 5-day coach trip to the lovely Esplanade hotel in Newquay Cornwall for a special one-off price this May

There's no hidden charges, - just an unbeatable offer - Here's the full details...

• **Day 1:** You'll arrive at the hotel late afternoon. Settle-in and look forward to dinner this evening.

• **Day 2:** After breakfast - a trip to Truro - a small, bustling city that's easy to get around, with lots of character and interesting things to see.

• **Day 3:** We take the coast road from Newquay (for some spectacular views) past Watergate Bay to the fishing village of Padstow and later, Tintagel

• **Day 5:** After a late, hearty breakfast we leave for home.

Esplanade Newquay ★★ ★

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Ireland 5 day Coach holiday £196

It's true! You can now you can have a wonderful 5 day coach trip to Co. Waterford this May for £196. Staying in a lovely hotel on the coast in Co. Waterford, you'll enjoy visiting Kilkenny, Cork and Blarney (all FREE trips)...and it's all for just 196...

There's no hidden charges, absolutely no 'catches' - just an unbeatable offer for Ireland - Here's the full details...

Day 1: Join our coach this morning on a leisurely journey to Fishguard and board the 2:30pm Ferry to Rosslare in Ireland. Crossing takes 3½ hours and then, it's about 1½ hours drive to our hotel in the harbour town of Dungarvan in Co. Waterford.

Days 2, 3 Trips out include Kilkenny City, Cork and Blarney

Day 4: Today is left free so you can explore Dungarvan itself at your own pace

Day 5: Leave for home after breakfast

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Departs: Mon 9th July & 6th August £196

Lakes Fantastic Mini Break for £89

It's true! You can now have a fantastic mini break in the Lake District for just £89. Staying in a lovely 3 star hotel, you'll enjoy a train ride through the Leven Valley and a cruise on Windermere...and it's all for just £89...

There's no hidden charges, - just an unbeatable offer - Here's the full details...

Join our coach on Sunday morning for a leisurely journey to the Lake District. Once in Cumbria, our first stop is in the charming village of Cartmel. We'll spend a leisurely hour or so here, then go on to our lovely 3 star hotel in Grange-over-Sands

Shap Wells Hotel ★★ ★

A beautiful location - in a secluded wooded valley in the Shap Fells surrounded by mountain streams. We arrive with time to settle-in and freshen-up before dinner.

Monday: enjoy a hearty breakfast prior to a special day in the Lake District. First we board a steam train for a short ride through the beautiful scenery of the Leven Valley, then a 40 minute cruise on s Lake Windermere to Bowness. A few hours free time here then go on to Grasmere before we depart the Lakes for home.

Price includes: Coach, hotel, dinner, full choice breakfast and trips out including train and boat trip.

Departs Sun 24th June & 9th Sep £89

Wonderful day trip to Llangollen

A Wonderful coach trip to the pretty market town of Llangollen with a 2 hour cruise through the stunning Dee Valley and over the spectacular Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Full Details:

You meet our coach in the morning and we go to Llangollen. When we arrive in town we'll board the 'Thomas Telford' - a modern motor cruise boat which we've hired for this special trip

A purpose-built narrowboat with comfortable seats and excellent views from every table. There also a fully stocked bar and toilets.

Once you're comfortably seated we set off on a two-hour trip of peaceful cruising along the stunning Dee Valley.

Your Skipper will keep you well informed and entertained as he gives you a live commentary - a bit of history, local knowledge and gossip!

A nice home-made lunch with tea or coffee is served on board too.

The trip finishes on a high - literally! As the boat crosses the spectacular Pontcysyllte Aqueduct 126ft above the Dee Valley floor. After the cruise, there's time to explore charming Llangollen itself before we head for home.

Departs: Wed 27th June & 6th July £46

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Choice

BBC1

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THE VOICE UK

BBC1, 7pm

The blind auditions are over, and the unique selling point (the fact the judges couldn't see who they'd chosen to mentor) has been exhausted, will it be just like The X Factor from here on? That remains to be seen, but with a recent episode thrashing Britain's Got Talent in the ratings, you can bet Simon Cowell is a little worried as his quest for ratings supremacy is threatened once more. This week, the four celebrity mentors start the opening live round with a group performance to show the wannabe stars how it's done. Then, the five remaining acts in Tom and Will's teams take centre stage. The results show is tomorrow at 7.25pm.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **11.45** Football Focus. **12.15** Match of the Day Live. A match from the Championship (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Bradford Bulls (Kick-off 2.40pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.35** Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 **My Family.** Ben forms a union to protest about timetables at work. (R)

7.00 **The Voice UK.** Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates present the first live round of the singing contest, in which the five acts in Tom Jones and Will.i.am's teams each take centre stage.

7.00 **The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton hosts the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.20 **Casualty.** Weeks of frenetic anticipation come to an end for Sam as the day of the GMC hearing arrives, but a confrontation with an old friend forces her to relive painful memories.

10.10 **BBC News; Weather.**

10.30 **Match of the Day.** Including highlights of Wigan Athletic v Newcastle United; National Lottery Update.

11.55 **The Football League Show.** Highlights of today's games on the final day of the regular Championship season.

1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Further second-round coverage from Sheffield. **5.30** The Falklands - Remembering Craig.

6.00 **Flog It!** The team visits the Cumbrian town of Barrow-in-Furness.

6.30 **Dad's Army.** The platoon puts its best feet forward. (R)

7.00 **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Coverage of the final session on day eight at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where one second-round match is scheduled to conclude and another gets under way.

8.00 **The Story of Light Entertainment.** The role of impressionists, exploring the popularity of performers including Mike Yarwood, Rory Bremner, Alistair McGowan, Ronni Ancona and the Spitting Image team.

9.00 **The Art of Tommy Cooper.** The life and work of the comedian. (R)

9.30 **I Love 1972.** David Cassidy continues the nostalgic look back at 1970s kitsch culture, focusing on the year of The Partridge Family, The Godfather and Marc Bolan's commercial peak. (R)

10.30 **FILM: Mean Streets.** (1973) Martin Scorsese's drama, with Robert De Niro.

12.20 Snooker: The World Championship. **1.10** Snooker Extra. **3.10** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Film: Free Willy 3: The Rescue. (1997) Family adventure, starring Jason James Richter. **3.05** Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) **3.20** Film: Murder on the Orient Express. (1974) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Albert Finney. **5.45** Regional News; Weather.

6.00 **ITV News; Weather.**

6.15 **Keith Lemon's LemonAid.**

7.00 **New You've Been Framed!** Featuring boating mishaps.

7.30 **The Cube.** Builder Wes and PE teacher Catrin are asked to complete tasks within the confines of the cube, hoping to win a jackpot of £250,000.

8.30 **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search as another line-up of entertainers try to impress judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Alesha Dixon and Amanda Holden.

9.30 **Benidorm.** The Garveys arrive at Madge's villa, only to discover she has sold it to a TV personality, and Gavin turns up at Solana with a new companion. (R)

10.30 **ITV News; Weather.**

10.45 **FILM: Dirty Harry.** (1971) Police thriller, starring Clint Eastwood.

12.40 The Store. (R) ITV News Headlines. **2.45** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Grid. **7.05** British F1. **7.30** FILM Superbike World Championship 2012. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.50** The TV Book Club. **9.25** T4: Koko Pop. **10.00** T4: Made in Chelsea. **11.05** T4: The Pop Powerlist. **12.10** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.45** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.15** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.50** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Channel 4 Presents - Oscar Pistorius "Head Strong". (R) **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Come Dine with Me.

6.00 **Channel 4 News.**

6.25 **4thought.** Nurse Jane Parkes talks about dealing with depression through religion, and expresses her wish to share her beliefs with patients suffering the same plight.

6.30 **Stephen Fry's 100 Greatest Gadgets.** The writer and actor provides a countdown of his favourite devices, all of which have revolutionised aspects of life, including the tin opener, trouser press and answering machine. (R)

9.30 **FILM: Terminator Salvation.** (2009) Premiere. In the future, resistance fighter John Connor leads a war against the deadly robots. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Christian Bale.

11.45 **FILM: Underworld: Evolution.** (2006) Action fantasy sequel, starring Kate Beckinsale.

1.35 Stand Up for the Week. (R) **2.20** Facejacker. (R) **2.45** Hit the Road Jack. **3.30** Dog's Mercury. (R) **3.55** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.40** Smallville. (R) **5.25** Countdown.

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** The Gadget Show: World Tour. (R) **11.00** Rory McGrath's Pub Dig. (R) **12.00** The Restaurant Inspector. (R) **1.00** Film: Murder, She Said. (1961) Miss Marple mystery, starring Margaret Rutherford. **2.40** Film: Medicine Man. (1992) Jungle adventure, starring Sean Connery. **4.45** Film: The Magnificent Seven. (1960) Western, starring Yul Brynner.

7.25 **5 News Weekend.**

7.30 **NCIS.** Lt Col Mann arrives to assist with inquiries into the murder of a marine - a case that becomes personal for Gibbs when he learns one of the witnesses is his ex-wife. (R)

8.20 **NCIS.** A Navy recruiting officer is murdered at a high school and the agents receive help from Ducky's predecessor in their search for the killer. Guest starring Bob Newhart. (R)

9.10 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** The team is called to examine the murder of a man found in the desert, leading to a string of killings connected to a cache of stolen casino chips.

10.10 **CSI: NY.** A crime-scene lab technician is murdered.

11.05 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** A teenager's body is found in the Hudson River.

12.05 SuperCasino. **4.00** Great Artists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Hana's Helpline. (R)

ITV2 **3.50** All Star Family Fortunes **4.50** You've Been Framed and Famous! **5.50** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **8.00** The Planet's Funniest Animals **8.30** Sexperts - The Little Lambs **9.30** Britain's Got More Talent **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.15** Keith Lemon's LemonAid

ITV3 **3.55** Film: The Secret Garden (1993) **5.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot

ITV4 **11.00** Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Chennai Super Kings v Kings XI Punjab and Kolkata Knight Riders v Royal Challengers Bangalore. **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: Unforgiven (1992) Western, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. **11.40** Film: Midnight Run (1988)

BBC THREE **7.00** Doctor Who **7.45** Doctor Who Confidential **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** World's Craziest Fools **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.15** Film: Adulthood (2008) **11.50** Family Guy

BBC FOUR **7.00** South Pacific **8.00** Around the World in 60 Minutes **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Parkinson: The Richard Burton Interview **11.35** Top of the Pops: 1977

E4 **3.00** Made in Chelsea **4.05** Charlie's Angels **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.30** Happy Endings **9.00** Rude Tube: Animals and Kids **9.30** Film: Wayne's World (1992) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4 **3.05** The Thirty-Nine Steps (1959) **4.55** Picture Perfect (1997) **6.50** Only You (1994) Romantic comedy, with Marisa Tomei and Robert Downey Jr. **9.00** The Sixth Sense (1999) **11.05** Cloverfield (2008)

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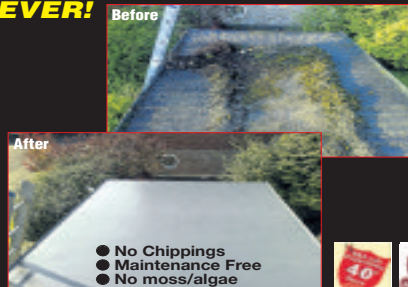


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Choice

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital



ANTIQUES ROADSHOW BBC1, 8pm

It's a well-known fact that Britain loves a good antique. You only have to take into consideration the longevity and popularity of this show, itself something of a much-treasured oldie, to see that it's true. This week, Fiona and the team head to the famed town of Stratford-upon-Avon, where with William Shakespeare's home so close by, they make a particular search for objects from the days of Elizabethan England. Up for examination are a dining table, a jewel said to have magical powers, and a portrait of Robert Dudley, First Earl of Leicester, and an important patron of theatre in the court of Elizabeth I.

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** Sunday Politics. **1.00** Cash in the Attic. (R) **1.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Human Planet. (R) **5.00** Points of View. **5.15** Songs of Praise.

6.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

6.25 Countryside. Matt Baker spruces up beach huts in Southwold, Suffolk.

7.25 The Voice UK Results. Tom Jones and Will.i.am each lose one act.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team head to Stratford-upon-Avon, the hometown of William Shakespeare, where they appraise objects from the days of Elizabethan England.

9.00 Silent Witness. Part one of two. Leo investigates the mysterious death of a psychiatric patient.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Damian Lewis guest-hosts the current affairs quiz.

11.10 Room 101 - Extra Storage. With Gregg Wallace, Gabby Logan and Sarah Millican.

11.50 FILM: The Man Without a Face. (1993) Drama, starring Mel Gibson.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP. The Spanish Grand Prix race. **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Further coverage of the second round in Sheffield.

6.00 The Hairy Bikers' Bakeathon. Si King and Dave Myers travel through France, where they make tarte aux pralines, a savoury-stuffed brioche, apricot tarte Tatin and, of course, the traditional French baguette. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine and Rishi Persad present coverage of the final session on day nine at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre.

8.00 Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve. Spear fishing on Madagascar and the world's smallest national park.

9.00 Ewan McGregor: Cold Chain Mission. Part two of two. The actor travels the Congo river.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Chelsea v Queens Park Rangers.

11.05 Grandma's House. Simon spots a chance to move out of his grandmother's house. (R)

11.35 Snooker: The World Championship. The final session on day nine at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre.

12.25 Snooker Extra. **2.25** BBC News. **4.30** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **11.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **1.35** The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) **2.05** The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) **2.35** Film: Colombo: Murder with Too Many Notes. (2000) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Billy Connolly. **4.25** Film: Tea with Mussolini. (1999) Period comedy drama, starring Maggie Smith.

6.35 Regional News; Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather. **7.00** All Star Family Fortunes. Tottenham Hotspur strike if Jermain Defoe and his family compete against actress Martine McCutcheon and her relatives to win up to £30,000 for charity.

8.00 Vera. The detective investigates the murder of a popular social worker and an infamous past case involving the death of a child appears to hold the key to solving the mystery.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Perspectives: Wind in the Willows with Griff Rhys Jones. The actor and comedian explores the classic children's tale, delving into the history of the book and the life of its author Kenneth Grahame.

11.15 The Cube. A hurling instructor competes. (R)

12.10 The Store. (R) ITV News Headlines. **2.15** River Monsters. (R) **3.05** Motorsport UK. **3.55** ITV News. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.10 Sali Mali. (R) **6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.10** Wheelchair Rugby Highlights: London Prepares. **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. **12.25** The Big Bang Theory. **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. **1.20** The Simpsons. (R) **1.45** The Simpsons. (R) **2.20** Film: Meet Dave. (2008) Premiere. Sci-fi comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **4.00** Time Team. **5.00** Film: The Parent Trap. (1998) Comedy remake, starring Lindsay Lohan.

7.25 Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. Imam Abdullah Hasan discusses how Islam can help people overcome depression.

8.00 Celebrity Deal or No Deal. Sarah Millican takes part in the game show, trying to guess the value of the mystery boxes and win up to £250,000 for her chosen charity. Hosted by Noel Edmonds.

9.00 Homeland. Saul visits Carrie in hospital after the explosion and finds her postulating frantically about Abu Nazir, but realises her theories have merit. Brody takes his family to Gettysburg.

10.05 FILM: The Bank Job. (2008) Fact-based crime thriller, starring Jason Statham and Saffron Burrows.

12.20 Film: My Name Is Khan. (2010) Premiere. Drama, starring Shahrukh Khan. **2.30** Brain Damage. (R) **2.40** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.45** Smallville. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.35** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.45** Mio Mao. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.20** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.35** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.20** Grey's Anatomy. (R) **11.15** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.15** Cowboy Traders. (R) **1.15** William and Kate: One Year On. (R) **2.20** Film: William & Kate. (2011) **4.05** Film: Scooby-Doo. (2002) **5.45** Film: Mulan. (1998) Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Ming-Na and Eddie Murphy.

7.30 5 News Weekend. **7.35** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **8.00** Once Upon a Time. **9.00** FILM: A Perfect Getaway. (2009) Premiere. Thriller, starring Milla Jovovich.

10.45 FILM: An American Haunting. (2005) Fact-based period horror, starring Donald Sutherland.

12.30 The World of Stupid Criminals. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** UEFA Europa League Highlights. **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Hana's Helpline. (R)

ITV2 **3.20** The Only Way Is Essex **4.50** Britain's Got Talent **5.50** Britain's Got More Talent **6.50** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Oily: Life on Murs **11.45** Film: GoldenEye (1995)

ITV3 **3.45** Film: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (1971) **5.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** An Audience with Lionel Richie **9.00** Film: Caddyshack (1980) **11.00** Cracker

ITV4 **1.00** British Touring Car Championship. Round three from Thruxton. **6.00** The Sweeney **7.00** Minder **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Indian Premier League Cricket **10.00** Film: Get Carter (1971)

BBC THREE **7.00** Don't Blame the Dog **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Don't Tell the Bride USA **9.50** Don't Tell the Bride: Greatest Moments **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad!

BBC FOUR **7.00** Royal Institution Lectures **8.00** Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity **9.00** Film: Tim (1979) **10.45** Mark Lawson Talks to Zoe Wanamaker **11.45** Royal Institution Lectures

E4 **3.05** Ugly Betty **4.05** Glee **5.05** 90210 **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Film: Clueless (1995) **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Made in Chelsea

FILM4 **2.55** The Poseidon Adventure (1972) **5.15** Freaky Friday (1976) **7.10** My Super Ex-Girlfriend (2006). An insecure superhero is outraged when her boyfriend dumps her, and in revenge uses her powers to ruin his life. Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman, Luke Wilson and Eddie Izzard. **9.00** Iron Man (2008). Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr, Jeff Bridges, Gwyneth Paltrow and Terrence Howard. **11.25** Young Frankenstein (1974)

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thechronicle

Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Robbed. Raided. Reunited. 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Gang Goes the Other Way. 8.00 BBC News. Regional News. 8.05 EastEnders. 8.30 Madeleine: The Last Hope? - Panorama. 9.00 Silent Witness. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Match of the Day. 11.05 Late Kick Off. 11.35 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.25 Weatherview. 12.30 Sign Zone. Our Food. (R) 1.30 Toughest Place to Be a Fisherman. (R) 2.30 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 3.15 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.45 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session on day 10 in Sheffield. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The conclusion of the second round in Sheffield. 8.00 Chaplains: Angels of Mersey. 8.30 Home Cooking Made Easy. (R) 9.00 The 70s. 10.00 Sounds of the 70s 2 Troubadours. 10.30 Party Election Broadcast. 11.00 ITV News; Weather. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Rosemary & Thyme. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Dales. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Scott & Bailey. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 ITV News; Weather. 10.45 60 Minute Makeover. 11.00 Mississippi with Trevor McDonald. (R) 11.35 Babies Behind Bars. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 Champions League Weekly. 2.55 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 Sali Mali. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 According to Jim. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.35 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Secret Millionaire Australia. (R) 10.00 Location, Location, Location. (R) 11.00 How to Haggle for a House. 12.00 Channel 4 News Midday Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Veg Heroes. 12.35 Glamour Puds. (R) 1.05 The Kitchen Pharmacy. (R) 1.25 Film: The Desperados. (1943) Western, starring Glenn Ford. 3.05 Channel 4 Presents - Jonnie Peacock. "Hit the Ground Running". (R) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 8.00 Foxes: Wild in the City. 9.00 Embarrassing Bodies. 10.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. 11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncensored. 11.45 Homeland. 12.05 Random Acts. 1.00 Film: Udaan. (2010) Drama, starring Rajat Barmecha. 3.15 A Family Portrait. (R) 3.20 Film: Cry Havoc. (1943) Second World War drama, starring Margaret Sullivan. 5.00 Gone Fishing. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Giant Animal Moves. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Mentalist. (R) 3.15 Film: Mystery Woman: Mystery Weekend. (2005) Whodunit, starring Kellie Martin. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Cowboy Traders. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show: World Tour. 5 News at 9. 9.00 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. 10.00 10 Things I Hate About. 1987. 11.00 Film: A Perfect Getaway. (2009) Thriller, starring Milia Jovovich. 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 5.15 Wildlife SOS. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Robbed. Raided. Reunited. 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Gang Goes the Other Way. 8.00 BBC News. Regional News. 8.05 EastEnders. 8.30 Madeleine: The Last Hope? - Panorama. 9.00 Silent Witness. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Match of the Day. 11.05 Late Kick Off. 11.35 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.25 Weatherview. 12.30 Sign Zone. Our Food. (R) 1.30 Toughest Place to Be a Fisherman. (R) 2.30 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 3.15 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.45 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Two quarter-finals get under way. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second session of two quarter-finals. 8.00 The Hairy Bikers' Bakealong. 9.00 Meet the Romans with Mary Beard. 10.00 Later Live - with Jools Holland. 10.30 Newsnight. Weather. 11.30 The Unforgettable Kenny Everett. (R) 12.05 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Rosemary & Thyme. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 William and Kate: The First Year. 8.00 The Hunt for Bin Laden. 11.00 ITV News; Weather. 11.30 Regional News; Weather. 11.35 The Unforgettable Kenny Everett. (R) 12.05 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 Sali Mali. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 According to Jim. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Secret Millionaire Australia. (R) 10.00 Location, Location, Location. (R) 11.00 How to Haggle for a House. 12.00 Channel 4 News Midday Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Veg Heroes. 12.35 Glamour Puds. (R) 1.05 The Kitchen Pharmacy. (R) 1.25 Film: The Desperados. (1943) Western, starring Glenn Ford. 3.05 Channel 4 Presents - Jonnie Peacock. "Hit the Ground Running". (R) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 8.00 Foxes: Wild in the City. 9.00 Embarrassing Bodies. 10.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. 11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncensored. 11.45 Homeland. 12.05 Random Acts. 1.00 Film: Udaan. (2010) Drama, starring Rajat Barmecha. 3.15 A Family Portrait. (R) 3.20 Film: Cry Havoc. (1943) Second World War drama, starring Margaret Sullivan. 5.00 Gone Fishing. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Giant Animal Moves. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: The Cradle Will Fall. (2004) Mystery, starring Angie Everhart. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Dirty Great Machines. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 War Hero in My Family. News at 9. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 10.00 CSI: NY. The team tries to track down a hitman. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.55 CSI: Miami. (R) 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Robbed. Raided. Reunited. 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Drought 2012 - An Inside Out BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 8.00 Traffic Cops. 9.00 The Apprentice. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Film: Chicago. (2002) Musical, starring Renée Zellweger. National Lottery Update. 12.30 Weatherview. 12.35 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 1.05 Watchdog. (R) 2.05 Madeleine: The Last Hope? - Panorama. (R) 2.35 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 3.35 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 4.05 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Daily Politics. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Further quarter-final coverage live from Sheffield. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The quarter-finals reach a conclusion in Sheffield. 8.00 Antiques Uncovered. 9.00 The World's Worst. The name of the Catholic Church. 10.00 The Apprentice: You're Fired. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Rosemary & Thyme. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Unforgettable Hughie Green. 8.00 The British Soap Awards 2012. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Unforgettable Kenny Everett. (R) 11.35 Total Emergency. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 British Touring Car Championship. 3.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 According to Jim. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Secret Millionaire Australia. (R) 10.00 Location, Location, Location. (R) 11.00 How to Haggle for a House. 12.00 Channel 4 News Midday Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Veg Heroes. 12.35 Glamour Puds. (R) 1.05 Film: The Conqueror. (1956) Historical epic, starring John Wayne. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 Foxes Live: Wild in the City. 8.00 Four Rooms. 9.00 The Tallest Tower: Building the Shard. 10.00 The Killing. 10.55 2 Broke Girls. 11.25 Desperate Housewives. 12.25 Random Acts. 12.35 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions. 12.50 Music on 4: Rita Ora: Intro. 1.05 Music on 4: 4Play: Marina and the Diamonds. 1.15 Music on 4: 4Play: The Script on 4: 4Play: Devin. 1.45 Music on 4: Launched at Red Bull Studios. (R) 2.00 Film: In the Mix. (2005) Crime comedy, starring Usher. 3.30 The Pizza Miracle. 3.55 St Elsewhere. (R) 4.45 Smallville. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Giant Animal Moves. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: Tili Lies Do Us Part. (2007) Premiere. Thriller, starring Paula Patton. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 The Gadget Show: World Tour. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 Cowboy Traders. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 NCIS: 10.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.50 Poker: The Big Game. 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Robbed. Raided. Reunited. 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders. 8.00 BBC News. Regional News. 8.05 Watchdog. The team investigates a potential dangerous fault in a popular family car. Last in the series. 9.00 New Tricks. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 Vote 2012. 4.00 Holiday Weatherview. 4.05 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the first semi-final. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second semi-final gets under way. 9.00 Shakespeare in Italy. 10.00 Grandmas' House. 10.00 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Film: Tsotsi. (2005) South African Oscar-winning drama, with Presley Chweneyagae. 1.40 Film: The Lives of the Saints. 2.00 Newsnight; Weather. 2.05 Regional News. 3.15 Close. 3.55 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Rosemary & Thyme. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Poms in Paradise. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Jason Donovan. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: American Pie Presents: Band Camp. (2005) Comedy sequel, starring Tim Allen. 11.30 Eugene Levy. 12.15 The Store; ITV News Headlines. 2.15 Film: The Sting. (1973) Depression-era comedy drama, with Robert Redford and Paul Newman. 4.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 According to Jim. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Secret Millionaire Australia. (R) 10.00 Location, Location, Location. (R) 11.00 How to Haggle for a House. 12.00 Channel 4 News Midday Summary. 12.05 Baking Mad with Zowie Llandrill. (R) 12.35 Glamour Puds. (R) 1.05 The Kitchen Pharmacy. (R) 1.15 Channel 4 Presents - Lee Pearson. (R) 1.20 Film: The Ladykillers. (1955) Ealing black comedy, starring Alec Guinness. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 Foxes Live: Wild in the City. 8.00 The World's Largest Snake. 9.00 The Hoarder Next Door. 10.00 Extreme A&E. 11.05 Random Acts. 11.10 Bin Laden: Shoot to Kill. (R) 12.45 Embarrassing Bodies. (R) 1.40 Hidden Talent. (R) 2.35 Girls on the Pull. (R) 3.05 Unreported World. (R) 3.30 The Secret Life of Buildings. (R) 4.25 My Eden. (R) 4.35 Time Team. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Dangerous Drivers' School. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: NY. (R) 3.15 Chances Food in Minutes. (R) 3.20 Film: They Came Back. (2007) Supernatural drama, starring Mia Kirshner. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 World's Scariest Flights. 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Restaurant Inspector. 10.00 Film: Four Weddings and a Funeral. (1994) A man's misfortunes in love look set to change when he meets an American beauty at a wedding. Richard Curtis's romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Andie MacDowell and John Hannah. 12.25 SuperCasino. 4.25 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Robbed. Raided. Reunited. 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Gang Goes the Other Way. 8.00 BBC News. Regional News. 8.05 EastEnders. 8.30 Would I Lie to You? 9.00 The Last Hope? - Panorama. 9.00 Silent Witness. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.30 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.30 The Matt Lucas Awards. (R) 12.05 EastEnders. 2.00 Weatherview. 2.05 Sign Zone; Titanic with Len Goodman. (R) 2.35 Countryfile. (R) 3.30 Question Time. (R) 4.30 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Vote 2012. 1.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Further semi-final coverage from Sheffield. 2.00 Vote 2012. 3.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Further semi-final coverage from Sheffield. 5.00 Vote 2012. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The penultimate session of the opening semi-final. 9.00 Maestro at the Opera. 10.00 Qi. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 Weather. 11.05 Later with Jools Holland. 12.10 Snooker: The World Championship. 1.00 Taken. (R) 2.25 BBC News. 4.30 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Rosemary & Thyme. (R) 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Poms in Paradise. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Jason Donovan. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: American Pie Presents: Band Camp. (2005) Comedy sequel, starring Tim Allen. 11.30 Eugene Levy. 12.15 The Store; ITV News Headlines. 2.15 Film: The Sting. (1973) Depression-era comedy drama, with Robert Redford and Paul Newman. 4.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV News.

Channel 4 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 According to Jim. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Secret Millionaire Australia. (R) 10.00 Location, Location, Location. (R) 11.00 How to Haggle for a House. 12.00 Channel 4 News Midday Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Veg Heroes. 12.35 Glamour Puds. (R) 1.05 Film: Singin' in the Rain. (1952) Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly. 3.05 Channel 4 Presents - Jonnie Peacock. "Hit the Ground Running". (R) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 Foxes Live: Wild in the City. 8.00 Foxes Live: Wild in the City. 8.05 Unreported World. 8.00 Come Dine with Me. 9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats. 9.30 Very Important People. 10.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. 11.05 Stand Up for the Week. 11.55 Film: Hot Rod. (2007) Premiere. Comedy, starring Andy Samberg. 1.35 Random Acts. 1.40 My Name is Earl. (R) 2.25 Dirty Sexy Money. (R) 3.50 Laid Off. (R) 4.00 St Elsewhere. (R) 4.50 Smallville. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Dangerous Drivers' School. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 NCIS. (R) 3.15 Film: Jane Doe: Now You See It, Now You Don't. (2005) Thriller, starring Lea Thompson. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 Dirty Great Machines. 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. A popular teacher is murdered. 10.00 Castle. 10.55 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (R) 11.55 Inside Hollywood. 12.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Motorsport Mundial. 4.25 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R)

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AVENGERS ASSEMBLE - 3D - (12A) - FLS	FRIDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY	1700	2050
BATTLESHIP - (12A)	SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	1100 1445 1710 2015	1550 2050
FRIDAY, MONDAY TO THURSDAY	AMERICAN PIE - REUNION - (15) - FLS	1640	1740 2020
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	MIRROR MIRROR - (PG)	1330	1650
TITANIC 3D - (12A) ALL WEEK	STRIPPERS VS WEREWOLVES - (15) - FLS	1545	1850
1920	CABIN IN THE WOODS - (15)	1600	1850
PIRATES AND SCIENTISTS - (U)	FRIDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY	1545	1850
FRIDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY	1545	1850
FRIDAY AND SUNDAY 1200 1410	SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	1545	1850
ANGER GAMES - (12A)	GONE - (15) - FLS	1800	2050
FRIDAY TO TUESDAY	LOCKOUT - (15) - FLS	1800	2050

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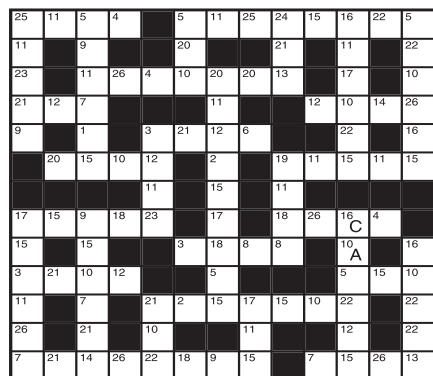
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Brain Gym

No.166

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Z	P	S	D	V	B	M	X	I	A	R	T	E
C	K	L	Y	O	N	Q	U	F	J	W	G	H

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

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SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

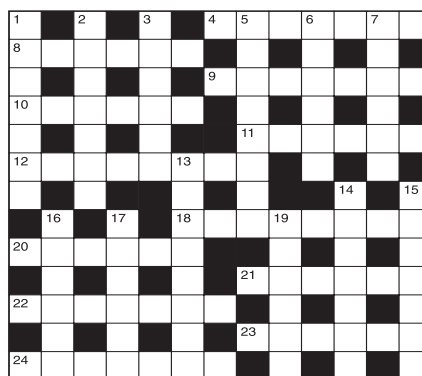
- Across**
- Needle without an eye? (7)
 - Drop it, perhaps, being apathetic (6)
 - Gets the better of the teachers? (7)
 - Very much the opposite (6)
 - Really can fit when adjusted properly (2,4)
 - Car owner in distress, and showing it! (8)
 - Hide inside bands-men's concert instruments (8)
 - He makes things hot for his employer (6)
 - There's no telling if it is to be kept (6)
 - Fight with some noise like a bird (7)
 - Foresee six coming in to eat (6)
 - Where to obtain a degree in common talk (7)
- Down**
- The type inclined to emphasise (7)
 - They give people their addresses (7)
 - The pattern of old China (6)
 - If you lose them, you're lost! (8)
 - Released - or shot (3,3)
 - Smart evergreen (6)
 - Garment worn out (8)
 - Prepare to travel in a decent raincoat (7)
 - Seats one pays for (7)
 - A state of perfection (6)
 - They weren't worn long during the Sixties (6)
 - He takes orders and forms a circle (6)

Quick Clues:

- Across**
- Recipe (7)
 - Wonder (6)
 - Law (7)
 - Kidnap (6)
 - Originate (6)
 - Scowling (8)
 - Not obligatory (8)
 - To journey (6)
 - To still (6)
 - To cloy (7)
 - Get down (6)
 - Fruit course (7)
- Down**
- Lovable (7)
 - Boring tool (7)
 - Swordsmen (6)
 - Unqualified (6)
 - Purpose (6)
 - Hidden (6)
 - Image worshipper (8)
 - Magnify (7)
 - A region's weather (7)
 - Decorated (6)
 - Evades (6)
 - Models of perfection (6)



ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS IN ONE HANDY APP!



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Photography; 9 Ire; 10 Pentagram; 11 Essay; 13 Rancour; 14 Nuance; 16 Stairs; 18 Ingrate; 19 Again; 20 Extra hand; 21 Don; 22 Presumption. Down: 2 Hoe; 3 Tipsy; 4 Gentry; 5 Against; 6 Harmonica; 7 Fire engines; 8 Imprisoning; 12 Slaughter; 15 Cravats; 17 Becalm; 19 Audit; 21 Duo. QUICK - Across: 1 Opprobrious; 9 Bet; 10 Plausible; 11 Tacky; 13 Expanse; 14 Untidy; 16 Advise; 18 Time-lag; 19 Fight; 20 Variegated; 21 Era; 22 Institution. Down: 2 Put; 3 Reply; 4 Braver; 5 Inspired; 6 Unbending; 7 Obstructive; 8 Deferential; 12 Catamaran; 15 Dullest; 17 Aghast; 19 Fleet; 21 Ego.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

2	9	3	5	6	4	7	1
8	1	7	3	9	2	6	5
6	5	4	8	7	1	9	2
7	8	5	2	9	3	1	6
3	2	9	1	5	6	4	8
1	4	6	7	3	2	9	5
5	6	8	4	2	7	1	3
9	7	1	6	3	8	5	4
4	3	2	9	1	5	7	6

	5	4					8
		7		2		4	9
8			5	9			
7				6			
4		7		1	6		3
1		5				4	
7			6	9			2
2	1		7		5		
		9			8	7	

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is P. Pointer, spaniel, whippet, all breeds of dog.



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QUICK CROSSWORDS
CODEWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

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The top property guide for Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Kidderminster

Swedish bungalow set in Stourport-on-Severn

A SPACIOUS detached bungalow set in almost half an acre of landscaped gardens at Astley, Stourport-on-Severn, is for sale priced at £385,000.

Woodstock was constructed by Swedish specialists Scandia Hus in 1981 to an excellent specification including triple glazing throughout, and is approached by a long gated driveway.

The accommodation briefly comprises of four bedrooms, bathroom and en-suite shower room, splendid 23ft by 16ft living room, 22ft by 13ft kitchen/dining room, conservatory, laundry/utility and double garage.

The main entrance door is approached via the conservatory which provides an ideal vantage point to the gardens, while the reception hall has doors to the guest cloakroom/shower room, doubling as a "Jack and Jill" en-suite to the master bedroom, walk-in closets cupboard and lounge with large

picture windows and gas fire in slate surround.

The kitchen/dining room measures 22ft by 13ft 5in and is arranged in two distinct areas, the kitchen featuring integral appliances and a further door leading to the laundry/utility room.

There are four bedrooms, one currently used as a study, plus a family bathroom and en-suite shower room to the master bedroom.

Gardens

Outside the gravelled driveway leads to a parking/turning area with detached double garage adjoining which is a brick-built shed and log store.

The gardens are a wonderful feature of Woodstock, which stands in the middle of the plot.

The well-stocked beds and borders host a multitude of shrubs and plants, complimented by oak, ash and Himalayan birch trees.

Call estate agent Allan Morris & Jones on 01562 747755 for further details.



Woodstock was constructed by Swedish specialists Scandia Hus in 1981 to an excellent specification



The lounge includes a feature-fireplace



Well-stocked beds and borders are complimented by oak, ash and Himalayan birch

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HAGLEY ROAD WEST, OLDBURY

NEW

3 bed semi in need of updating & improvement
2 separate reception rooms
Fitted with GCH & UPVC double glazing
28ft max lounge/dining room
Kitchen & conservatory/utility
Front and well proportioned rear garden

£119,950 Ref: D1181

CHANCE CROFT, OLDBURY

NEW

Modern mews home in cul-de-sac
15ft lounge & 13ft dining kitchen
2 spacious bedrooms & bathroom
Driveway to front
Rear garden with southerly aspect
Central heating & double glazing

£107,500 Ref: D1184

SOMMERFIELD ROAD, BARTLEY GREEN

NEW

Superbly presented 3 bed terrace home
Lounge 15ft 10 dining room, kitchen and guest WC
Three good sized bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor
Low maintenance front and rear gardens
Double glazing & gas warm are central heating
Internal inspection essential

£94,950 Ref: D1180

WHITLEY COURT ROAD, QUINTON

NEW

3 bed semi in sought after tree lined road
Refitted kitchen opening into 12ft dining room
14ft lounge and 18ft lean to utility to rear
Gas central heating and majority UPVC DG
Driveway to front & hard standing to rear
Lawned rear garden - private aspect

£179,950 Ref: D1183

HIGH STREET, HARBORNE

NEW

Traditional style two bed end terrace house
Well positioned in central Harborne
Lounge, breakfast kitchen & cellar
Two Bedrooms & bathroom
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
Well proportioned enclosed rear garden

£179,950 Ref: D1178

WARLEY HALL ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW

Refurbished 3 bed semi detached home
Lounge and refitted dining kitchen
Three bedrooms and family bathroom
Spacious loft room with windows
UPVC double glazing, fascias and soffits
Vacant possession - No upward chain

£154,950 Ref: D1179

CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY

NEW

25ft Lounge Diner with fitted electric fireplace.
Refitted kitchen with built in oven & hob
Refitted bathroom and 3 bedrooms.
No upward chain.
Front and rear gardens. Potential for front driveway.
Majority UPVC DG & GCH.

£132,950 Ref: D1115

FULWOOD AVENUE, HALESOWEN

NEW

3 bed semi detached home with garage
No upward chain - Vacant possession
Lounge/diner and separate kitchen, DVC
Driveway with parking
Gardens front & rear
95% mortgage available subject to lenders criteria

£129,950 Ref: D1185

WORCESTER ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW

Immaculate 3 bed mid terrace home
Two reception rooms & breakfast kitchen
3 beds & bathroom on 1st floor
Gas central heating - UPVC DBG
Lawned gardens to front & rear
Overlooking Brandhall golf course

£122,000 Ref: D1186

NORMAN ROAD, BEARWOOD

NEW PRICE

3 bed semi on corner plot
2 separate reception rooms
Extended 20ft breakfast kitchen
Upstairs bathroom & D/S WC
Garage & driveway to front
UPVC DG & GCH

£129,995 Ref: D1164

MALVERN ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

Well proportioned 3 bed mid terrace home
Fitted with UPVC d/g, GCH & alarm
In need of updating & improvement
Gas central heating - UPVC DBG in part
Lawned gardens to front & rear
Parking to rear

£94,950 Ref: D1149

FELDON LANE, HALESOWEN

NEW PRICE

Superbly presented two bed end terrace
Entrance hall & WC - spacious lounge
Refitted breakfast kitchen with built in appliances
Lounge, dining room with conservatory off
Fitted kitchen & downstairs bathroom
Low maintenance courtyard style garden
Internal inspection essential

£94,950 Ref: D1074

ABBAY CRESCENT, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

Much improved 3 bed semi with plenty of parking
Entrance hall & WC - spacious lounge
Refitted breakfast kitchen with built in appliances
Two double and one single bedroom
Refitted bathroom with shower - white suite
Gas central heating and UPVC double glazing

£158,000 Ref: D1147

EDINBURGH ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

Spacious & modernised end terrace house
Two double bedrooms & refitted bathroom
Refitted kitchen with built in oven & hob
Lounge diner with double doors to garden
GCH & majority UPVC double glazing
UPVC soffits & fascias & security system

£109,950 Ref: D1007

MERTON CLOSE, OLDBURY

NEW PRICE

Spacious 3 double bed home in cul-de-sac
22ft lounge diner & 12ft kitchen
Upstairs bathroom & downstairs WC
UPVC dg & GCH
Garage & driveway - plenty of parking
Low maintenance & private rear garden

£99,950 Ref: D1152

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A modern fitted kitchen at the property in Huskinson Close, Tividale

Property with views across Birmingham

THIS IMPROVED detached property, in the sought after location of Tividale, is available for rent through We Love Your Postcode, wlyp.co.uk at £650pcm.

Located on Huskinson Close, a quiet and attractive cul-de-sac, accommodation briefly comprises hallway, downstairs WC, living room with real flame gas fire and feature fireplace, dining room with French doors onto the garden, fitted kitchen and utility room and the garage has been tastefully converted into a useful second reception room.

Gazebo.
The property also benefits from a driveway for two to three cars and a large rear garden with gazebo, decking area with outside power and spectacular views across Birmingham.

The property is located on an established residential housing estate close to shops and schools and also just off the main Birmingham New Road/Wolverhampton Road making it perfect for major Road and Motorway access

For further details or viewing on this or other similar properties call We Love Your Postcode on 0121 525 9090.



A large rear garden has gazebo, decking area, outside power and views across Birmingham

Close to countryside



This property is available in Kingswinford, priced around £184,950

Situated on the popular Valleyfields development in Kingswinford, this extended property is on the market priced at £184,950.

The house in Mayfair Drive has been altered to provide two first floor bedrooms with the master having an en-suite shower room, and the option of a ground floor third bedroom which could also be used as a separate dining room/sitting room.

It is very well placed for the area's excellent local schooling together with good access to the centre of Kingswinford with its range of shops, restaurants, regular transport services and other amenities.

The house, close to open countryside as well as easy access via the A449 to both Kidderminster and Wolverhampton, also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing.

On the ground floor the reception hall, 13ft 8in by 6ft 5in, has stairs to the first floor and a useful understairs cupboard with a door to the lounge - 16ft 11in by 9ft 9in - with a gas fire with feature fireplace surround.

The fitted dining kitchen measuring 15ft by 9ft 9in has a range of units with roll edge work surfaces with a stainless steel sink unit with mixer tap, integrated hob with cooker hood over, integrated double oven, plumbing for automatic washing machine, recess for tumble dryer, space for dining furniture and patio door to rear garden.

There is a separate dining room/sitting room/bedroom three and a bathroom with light coloured suite of panelled bath with shower over, vanity unit with inset wash basin and close flush wc. On the first floor are two bedrooms and an en-suite shower room with corner shower cubicle, pedestal wash basin and close flush wc.

The property is set back behind the driveway which provides of road parking and leads to the garage which has a door to the entrance hall.

The rear garden has a paved patio, steps down to a further paved area with central area with shrubs and apple tree, two timber sheds and a large greenhouse.

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HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

Located in Hayley Green, is this unfurnished first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Bathroom and Parking Space. Viewing Highly Recommended.

£650 PCM

HALESOWEN, LOWFIELD CLOSE

A lovely re-furnished Semi Detached House, set within a cul-de-sac location comprising of: Spacious Lounge, Modern Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Three Generous Bedrooms, Bathroom with Separate Shower, Garage and Driveway, Private Rear Gardens. 6/9 Months Let Only!

£650 PCM

HALESOWEN, CHATSWORTH ROAD

Located on this desirable estate in Halesowen, is this unfurnished semi detached house briefly comprising: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, En-Suite to Master Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking Space for Two Cars, Front and Rear Gardens, Great Views From Rear

£550 PCM

HALESOWEN, BANNERS STREET

A mid terrace property which has been refurbished, comprises of: Two Double Bedrooms, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms, While Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Garden with Decking Area, On Road Parking, Available Immediately.

£550 PCM

ROWLEY REGIS, AQUA COURT, CARDALE STREET

This new build ground floor apartment, a stones throw away from Blackheath town centre comprises of: Two Double Bedrooms with Double Bedrooms with Bed Bases, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom but No Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking Space, Viewing Highly Recommended.

£525 PCM

BRIERLEY HILL, GOLDEN CROSS WAY

Set within a quiet cul-de-sac, is this part furnished mid terrace house, close to local amenities and Merry Hill, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms with Bed Bases, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, 2 Parking Spaces, Low Maintenance Rear Garden

£525 PCM

CRADLEY HEATH, MOSSVALE CLOSE

Being tastefully re-furnished to a high standard and within walking distance of Old Hill train station is this three bedroom mid-terrace property, comprising of: Two Large Double and One Large Single Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Downstairs WC, Small Rear Garden, Garage at Rear of Property, Available Immediately.

£525 PCM

HALESOWEN, CAVALIER DRIVE

This beautifully presented and well looked after first floor apartment is centrally located to Halesowen, within easy reach of the town centre and local bus station, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Large Lounge with Access to Your Own Balcony, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking Space for One Car, A Must See Property

£495 PCM

NETHERTON, NORWICH ROAD

Located in a quiet road, is this unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Cosy Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Gas central heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower and Gated Driveway Parking, Front and Rear Gardens

£495 PCM

HALESOWEN, VICTORIA COURT

A Two Bedroom Second Floor Flat Having Accommodation Including Hall, Generous Lounge With Balcony Off, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Jacuzzi, Double Glazing And Storage Heating, Communal Gardens.

£495 PCM

CRADLEY HEATH, PEAR TREE LANE

This lovely unfurnished modern first floor apartment, located in a popular area, and close to local train station and buses, comprises of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space

£475 PCM

NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

Situated on a very popular road, and a short walk from local shops and bus links, is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Cosy Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Low Maintenance Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

£475 PCM

TIPTON, FERGUSON DRIVE

A lovely modern first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing, Two Allocated Parking Spaces, Communal Gardens, Internal Viewing Recommended.

£475 PCM

CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

An unfurnished ground floor apartment on a popular development, also close to Old Hill high street and local train station, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking Space (STRICTLY NO DSS)

£425 PCM

BRIERLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE

Situated in a quiet location and within walking distance to Brierley Hill town centre and a short drive or bus to Merry Hill Shopping Centre is this ground floor apartment, comprising of: One Double Bedroom and One Single, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Spacious Lounge, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, One Allocated Parking Space

£425 PCM

ROWLEY REGIS, HIGH STREET

A Furnished To Suit Two Bedroom Flat In High Street Location, Briefly Comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking Space.

£425 PCM

OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished £400 for the 1st 6 months and £425 after

£400 PCM

CRADLEY HEATH, HALESOWEN ROAD

This value for money part-furnished terraced house, close to Old Hill town centre and Old Hill train station, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms and One with Fitted Wardrobes, Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, On Road Parking, NO REAR GARDEN

£400 PCM

HALESOWEN, MALT MILL LANE

A Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Property Close to Blackheath Town Centre. Comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, One Study/Storage Room, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen with Cooker, Downstairs WC, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Driveway Parking, Available Immediately.

£395 PCM

NETHERTON, BAPTIST END ROAD

An Unfurnished, Modern Ground Floor Flat Briefly Comprising: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom With Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing, Parking Space, Car Port, Communal Garden.

£395 PCM

BRIERLEY HILL, CHURCH HILL

Located within walking distance to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill, is this modernised second floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Spacious Lounge

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£110,000

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NEW

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Honda's one-off breaking the humdrum

DON'T let common sense rule your entire life. There are plenty of things that you need to keep a cool head over: what pension you should choose and perhaps which car insurance policy to get – the humdrum and the every-day.

Most of us need to apply this logic to our choice of car too, but if you're a little fortunate and prepared to compromise a little, you can have a little bit of divine madness in your life. Honda makes very good, very sensible cars. There's a brand-new Civic now of

By Matt Joy

course, but the previous generation was no less impressive. And aside from the very slick and modern exterior and futuristic interior, it was a sensible and solid as any Honda.

Then it brought out the Type-R version, which looked the business and went pretty well thanks to the fiery 2.0-litre VTEC engine. But that wasn't enough for Mugen, the tuning arm of Honda.

It created the Civic Type-R Mugen. It was lightened by 100kg, including beautiful lighter alloy wheels and composite body panels, lowered and stiffened suspension and super grippy tyres.

There were also some significant engine upgrades that liberated an extra 40bhp and 15lb.ft of torque.

In short, it was a genuine fire-breathing hot hatch. It was also not cheap at £38,995, although you were getting one of only 20 cars with some serious engineer-

ing added.

The new Civic's arrival should have been the end of the story, but there were a few remaining cars and the Mugen people decided to go back and make it even more crazy. By increasing the engine capacity to 2.2 litres, power went up to 256bhp and torque to 177lb.ft for one final hurrah.

And what a car it is. You'll spot it's a Civic straight away of course, but like no other on the road.

The exterior upgrades include a BTCC-like massive rear wing, which on another car could look daft but on the Civic's modern, radical shape looks just right.

Finished in Championship White with a prominent Mugen graphic on the flank, it is as purposeful as you could wish for. It looks ready to head out on to the track and set a pole position time.

Climb inside and you drop straight into the very huggy Recaro seats. Apart from being very supportive and comfortable, they have huge side bolsters that clamp you in place.

If you hadn't realised by this point that the Mugen Type-R is a proper driving machine, the fact that your bottom isn't

going anywhere tells you all you need to know. Turn the key then finger the starter button and the engine spins rapidly into life, idling quite high at first with a serious rasp from the large diameter exhaust.

Kangaroo

The gear lever slots firmly into first, and the upgraded clutch has a sharp bite – a brief kangaroo moment is inevitable until you get used to it and it sums up the whole car; it is a precision tool that needs to be driven with purpose.

Within 50 yards you'll notice that the suspension is firm. On really rough roads you might wish it was a shade softer, but if you want a compromised car then look elsewhere. Driven sedately, the engine feels more than sufficiently torquey, the steering is sharp and the pedals all respond with pinpoint accuracy. And yes you can relax while behind the wheel: the Civic settles down to the task of just getting you where you want to go.

But to drive it this way is a waste. You need a twisty and open section of road to discover what the Mugen is all about.

If you didn't know it already, Type-Rs are all about revs and with this 2.2 Mugen even

more so. You need to work this car hard and once the needle passes 6,000rpm, the exhaust note turns from a roar to a manic blare. It surges forward with renewed vigour and the grin grows further across your face.

No other production car bar six-figure supercars can provide such an intoxicating mix of noise and pace. And the super-slick gearshift helps you keep it on the boil: snap changing between ratios is a pure delight.

And when you arrive at the first bend, the experience continues in the same vein.

The uprated brakes give a very firm pedal action that inspires huge confidence, and it takes a long time before you find the limit of the braking power.

Then the sharpness of the steering takes over as you peel into a bend, the front tyres biting hard and gripping more than you thought possible.

You have to push and push before the Mugen Civic starts to push back, and when you eventually find the grip running out, it helps you gather it all up again.

Driven like this you forget all about the price tag and savour the engineering that has gone into it and the visceral experience that it delivers.



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Model shown: 121M Civic 1.8 ES Manual in White Orchid Pearl at £19,880 including metallic paint. Terms & Conditions - Service Plan: Three years' servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first, includes a maximum of three services, at £349 for petrol models and £449 for diesel models. Honda Hire Purchase (HP): Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe PLC, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Model shown: Jazz 1.4 iVTEC ES Manual in Azure Blue Metallic at £14,200 including metallic paint. Terms & Conditions - Servicing: Three years complimentary servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first, includes a maximum of three services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only. 4th Year Extended Guarantee: Additional 1 Year Warranty coverage extends the original Standard Warranty to 4 years / 120,000 miles (whichever occurs first), and will guarantee the vehicle is free from material and manufacturing defects (mechanical and electrical items only, excludes items which can be expected to wear). Road Tax: A monetary amount equivalent to the cost of Road Tax (VED - Vehicle Excise Duty) for the first three years of the vehicle's life will be paid at time of purchase at the prevailing rates of First Year and Subsequent Year VED. Insurance contribution: A monetary amount of £300 will be paid at time of purchase as a contribution to insurance costs. Honda Hire Purchase (HP): Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe PLC, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Model shown: CR-V 2.0 EX Manual in White Orchid Pearl at £26,020 On The Road including metallic paint and saving of £2,520 on retail On The Road price. Terms & Conditions: Complimentary upgrade: CR-V EX models available for the On The Road price of equivalent ES+ model - discount of £2,520 inc VAT will be applied to retail invoice. Service Plan: Three years' servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first, includes a maximum of three services, at £299. Honda Hire Purchase (HP): Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe PLC, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Terms & Conditions: Offers valid on new retail Civic models, Jazz including Jazz Hybrid, CR-V EX models ordered from 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 and registered by 30 June 2012. Offers applicable at participating Dealers and are at the Promoter's absolute discretion. Motability: Models shown: 121M Jazz 1.2 S in Azure Blue Metallic at Nil advance payment and CR-V 2.0 iVTEC SE+ manual in Premium Bronze at £17,999 advance payment. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 1st April to 30th June 2012 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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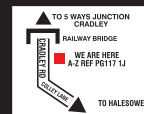
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Vauxhall take fresh approach to Meriva

THE MERIVA was introduced back in 2003 and it has been a very successful small vehicle with over 100,000 being sold in the UK.

However it was getting a bit old and it needed a makeover and thankfully Vauxhall didn't go down the road of let's just tweak the headlamps, or put new door handles on, no they have created a completely new and very stylish looking vehicle.

When you look at the vehicle, the front has the corporate

look that says I am a Vauxhall, but the biggest change without doubt is when you look at the side profile, Vauxhall have taken the rather brave step of equipping the Meriva with what they describe as flex-doors. Flex-doors basically are doors that are hinged backwards which then swing open towards the rear of the car at an angle of almost 90 degrees, this makes this vehicle almost a must for people with young children or mobility issues that need to utilise the rear of the car.

The doors cannot be opened by the occupants whilst the Meriva is travelling at more than two mph. The concept itself is nothing new but it does promote Meriva very high on to the list of must have if you are a family and need vehicles that have ease of access for children and child seats.

Journey
The designers have really worked overtime inside the vehicle, there is a completely new approach to the centre console and a variety of storage and comfort solutions are incorporated. I do like vehicles that have lots and lots of nooks and crannies to store the bits and pieces that we seem to have to take with us on our journey.

The rear seats can be folded down to increase the amount of luggage capacity and also the flex-space system allows for the movement of rear seats to create a little bit of head or shoulder room. The boot also has a secret compartment, the floor of the boot can be lifted and you can store items away from prying eyes.

There is a choice of engine configurations for the Meriva with several petrols and diesels as options, the petrols are going to be based primarily on 1.4-litre engines and the diesels will be a variety either of 1.3 or 1.7-litres. The engineers at Vauxhall are still striving to get their CO2 emissions down and it is going to be some time before they are down in to the realms of the CO2 emissions which qualify for free or very low road tax, but they are working very hard to achieve this.

My Meriva was equipped with a 1.4-litre turbo charged engine with a capacity of 1364cc, and produced 140 bhp, sufficient Vauxhall suggest of a top speed of 122 mph and a 0-60 in marginally over 10 seconds.

**By Bob
Hickman**

The five-speed gearbox was quite a notchy easy to use configuration, I did find however that the vehicle could be lethargic in fourth and fifth gears and if an overtake was necessary it was essential to get that engine and more importantly the turbo spinning to give you the get up and go that you need.

The vehicles are well equipped, although on my model Vauxhall had taken the trouble to spend £855 on a satellite navigation system and if it was my money I wouldn't bother. I found my own £100 Tom-Tom was far more efficient and try as I would with the sat nav in the Vauxhall I couldn't get it to accept postcodes and a trip in to a Shropshire hamlet proved very difficult with the on-board system but a doddle with the Tom-tom.

Standard features on my vehicle included electric front windows which was a surprise, as the rear flexi doors have good old fashioned wind-up windows.

An absolute plethora of air bags are incorporated and Vauxhall have enabled an air bag deactivation switch so you can safely put a child seat on the front passenger seat. I am not too convinced that an electronic parking brake is necessary on a vehicle of this type but you get used to it.

From a driving perspective the vehicle is a little higher than normal so it does give you an extra bit of visibility, but nothing too dramatic. It was a comfortable, predictable vehicle to drive, nothing too exciting but you don't expect that from this type of vehicle. It does everything that you require from a saloon to transport the family about.

Pricing structures for the Meriva vary from £13,000 up to a hefty £22,000, my 1.4-litre turbo was priced at £19,740, the extras fitted took it over £21,000 and the fuel figures quoted for the engine was a not too exciting 42.2 mpg on the combined figure. CO2 is quoted at 156 and that puts it sadly in to the £155 excise duty, and that is a shame.

As with all new Vauxhalls it is eligible for the company's Lifetime 100,000 miles warranty.



The Meriva sits a little higher than normal offering good visibility



Prices for Vauxhall's family saloon start at £13,000, rising to £22,000

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When starting a building project always use a contract which should include details such as start and completion dates, costs and payment plans. You can download a free contract from the Federation of Master Builders (FMB), the largest trade association in the UK construction industry, <http://www.fmb.org.uk/find-a-builder/free-contracts/>.

Protect your investment in your home by getting building work covered by an insurance-backed warranty, such as those offered by Build Assure. Build Assure offer a wide range of insurance products to suit your individual requirements and building project. Visit www.fmbuildassure.co.uk to find out more.

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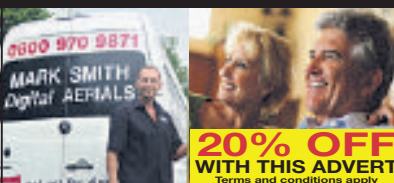
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I heard she passed away last
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worked at Horton
Hospital and then moved to
Wimbledon when the hospital
closed down. We kept in touch
until early 2011 and I would
like to find her Parents who
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U5's to U15's Players wanted.
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Stunning lookers, KC applied
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Rehoming - Tigga - Lurcher,
10mths, male, Jasper - Lurcher,
10mths, male, Kaiser - GSD 5yrs,
male, Freddie - Greyhound,
6yrs, male, Tommy - Lurcher,
1yr, male, Blue - young Lurcher,
male, Casper - GSD X, young
male, Jake - Young Jack
Russell, male, Benji - Grey-
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12yrs, male, Toffik - Staffie, 1yr,
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Puppies, ready to go, Male and
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Snow white Kittens, £75.
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56 plate, black, 36k, tax and MoT,
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PEUGEOT 206, Diesel, 54 reg, Taxed and MoT'd, alarm, £2,200 o.n.o. Good condition 07837 758185.

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VAUXHALL SIGNUM ELEGANCE Direct 2.2 silver, 04 reg, 68k miles, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, fsh £2,500. 01902 333684.

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HONDA ACCORD V reg, fsh, MoT November, 6 months tax, £800 ono. 01384 822770.

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PEUGEOT 106 2001, blue, 11 months MoT, taxed, excellent condition, very reliable, £925 ono. 01902 847139. 07880 673491.

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RENAULT CLIO, 2002, 95,000 miles, MoT, taxed, electric windows, air bag, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, tax, stereo, CD, £975 ono. 07540 761329.

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ROVER 25, 2001, diesel, 12 months MoT, taxed, new brakes, good condition, reliable, £875 ono. 07834 915736.

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CITREON BERLINGO van 1.9 diesel, 2004, CL, airbag, EW, roof rack, 6 months tax, full MoT, £1,795 ono. 07989 417128.

LIV CONVOY HI-TOF V reg (99), 6 mth MoT, 4 mth Tax, 70k, fair condition, £1,000. 0795414377.

LIV CONVOY twin wheel van, good condition, new tyres, engine smokes (oil), no MoT or tax, £500. 01384 964751 or 07831 365373.

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HONDA PANTHEON 125 FES, July 04, 4,500 miles, 1 lady owner from new, immaculate condition, silver, £1,195 ono. 01384 274131.

KYMO NEXXON 125 Scooter, blue, 2010, 100 miles on clock, £1,000. 01902 743330 / 07862 253317.

SUZUKI BANDIT 1200cc S, V reg, well maintained, lovely bike, long MoT and tax, £1,550.

SPORT

Ladies put on style to seize the crown

Halas Hawks Ladies 6 University of Warwick 2
HALAS Hawks Ladies needed to win their last game to take the Birmingham County Women's League title – and did so in style. However, an under-strength Warwick side took Halas by surprise, taking an early lead. But Halas gradually showed their superiority and equalised through Tash Berry. They went on to win 6-2 with Berry completing her hat-trick and Jody Jones also firing a treble.

Boys League
Halas Hawks U9 East 4 Kewford Eagles U9 5
Both teams had lots of chances in an end-to-end affair. Halas led three times, but Kewford levelled on each occasion and went on to win. Halas scorers were Jack Plant (2), Aston Loynes and Jack Whitehouse.

Halas Hawks U12 5 Forest Falcons U12 East 2
Nick Bennett grabbed four goals for Halas in this victory, the other coming from Aseil Yafai.

Halas Hawks U14 1 Gornal Colts U14 South 1
Halas were unfortunate to go into the half-time break a goal down, having had most of the play. But they levelled in the second half through Jack Guest, the draw enough to put them through to the next round of the Merit Shield. Charlie Bagley was outstanding in goal.

Withymoor U15 East 0 Halas Hawks U15 3
Halas returned to winning ways with a comfortable victory. Kane Griffiths-York netted his first for the team after a long injury lay-off and further goals were added by Josh March and Mitchell Tomlinson.

Halas Hawks U17 3 Perrywoods U17 3
Halas led three times in this top-of-the-table clash – but each time Perrywoods pegged them back. Alex Chappel (2) and Joe Powell scored for Halas.

Halas Hawks U18 3 Old Wulfrunians U18 0
Halas Hawks reached the League Cup final with an impressive display of controlled football against Old Wulfrunians, fully deserving their 3-0 win. Halas scorers were Reece Shilcock (2) and Brad Hickman.

Girls League
Halas Hawks U16 1 Droitwich Spa U16 4

Halas began with just nine players and strength in numbers eventually told. Kelly Gorman scored for Halas.



Boxer Jack Wood

Jack ready to send Pat packing

by Craig Birch

WEDNESBURY ABC's Jack Wood will be looking to drag Pat McCormack into the trenches when he meets the world champion in the junior ABA competition.

Wood was a national semi-finalist in the junior ABAs last year and meets the fighter who lost to Archie Sharp in that final at 54kg on Sunday afternoon.

Their clash in the quarter-final comes in the class five age group – for boxers born in 1995 – at the Manchester Boxing Centre of Excellence. McCormack bounced

back from last season's junior ABA disappointment to take a first-ever world title to Birtley Boys ABC in Gateshead later.

But Wood's trainer Anthony Tobin reckons his man has done his homework.

He believes Wood will not pay his opponent too much respect when they climb through the ropes.

The 17-year-old will look to prove to McCormack he has the superior strength and power if

their tactics of going toe-to-toe comes off, according to Tobin.

He said: "Jack is game, he knows what's he is up against and he's quite positive about it."

"He will get in there and won't give him a minute – that's how Jack boxes."

Scrappy

"I have seen Pat fight a few times and, if you let him do what he wants, he will box your head off."

"It's going to be a scrappy bout but Jack is stronger and he will stand there all day for a brawl. We

have had to get him out of that – and know we are going to have to get him right back into it!"

"But he can read a fight, he's been watching this kid on YouTube and he isn't bothered at all."

"That's Jack all over; he's tough."

"If you give them too much respect, you might as well pack up."

Wood walked over the pre-quarter finals without boxing last weekend, as the North West Region had not posted an entrant at 54kg.

Many happy returns for Baggies boss Roy

Liverpool 0 Albion 1

ALBION rode their luck and defended heroically to take victory at Anfield for the first time in 45 years to the day.

And the Baggies left Liverpool wondering how they failed to find the net on a quite remarkable afternoon at one of English football's most famous old grounds.

Peter Odemwingie's emphatic goal – with 15 minutes remaining – made him the first Baggies match-winner at Anfield since Jeff Astle in 1967, writes **Steve Madeley**.

And it made manager Roy Hodgson, who suffered such cruel abuse during a troubled six-month spell at the Liverpool helm, the first Hawthorns gaffer since Jimmy Hagan to lead the club to an away win at Liverpool. How they did it might still be a mystery to all involved. The visitors' goal led a charmed life in a second-half barrage from the home side.

But the Baggies could claim that, with arguably the two best chances of the first half, that they had earned the slices of good fortune which propelled them to victory.

Powerful

It leaves Hodgson, who received a polite welcome back from the fans who once called for his head, just a point behind his former employers with three games of the Premier League season remaining.

With Jonas Olsson restored to the heart of their defence after his groin problem and Shane Long stepping in for injured striker Marc-Antoine Fortune, Albion started brightly with Billy Jones involved in a couple of powerful overlapping runs early on.

But Youssef Mulumbu was spared a major slice of embarrassment on 10 minutes after he dived on the ball and was robbed by Andy Carroll 30 yards from goal.

Luis Suarez fed Dirk Kuyt, darting in from the right, but the Dutchman fired just wide of the far post with a cross-shot.

There was another let-off for the Baggies



Contrasting expressions for the two bosses, Kenny Dalglish and Roy Hodgson

when Suarez latched onto a fabulous reverse pass by Glen Johnson but dragged his shot badly wide.

And the home side felt Hodgson's men were relieved by referee Neil Swarbrick when he turned down a loud penalty shout by Maxi Rodriguez on 20 minutes.

Ben Foster had to be alert to keep the scoresheet blank when he parried a shot from Suarez and saw Maxi's follow-up fly over. But Pepe Reina then made a smart save at the other end to turn away a 10-yard volley from Chris Brunt after Long had nodded down Olsson's left-wing corner.

The hosts had enjoyed more possession than their visitors but Reina had to rescue his side again, 11 minutes from the interval, when he reacted instinctively to block a shot from Liam Ridgeway after the Baggies defender met a Graham Dorrans corner.



Chris Brunt and Graham Dorrans celebrate with scorer Peter Odemwingie

Albion did, however, have to repel a spell of Reds pressure in the moments immediately before half-time with Foster turning a Daniel Agger shot behind and Olsson making a brave block to deny Johnson a shot at goal.

The second half began with a major slice of good fortune for the Baggies after a fine Liverpool move ended with Carroll teeing up Jordan Henderson 20 yards out.

The midfielder's powerful shot first rattled the crossbar then hit the back of keeper Foster before bouncing to safety.

There was another alarm in the Baggies' backline when Suarez weaved his way into the box but blasted high and wide.

And the woodwork again came to the visitors' rescue when Kuyt cut in from the right and hammered a shot against the base of the far post with Foster well beaten. Liverpool

were cranking up the pressure and Albion survived a remarkable goalmouth scramble.

But after their goal had led a charmed life for much of the second half, the Baggies remarkably took the lead with 15 minutes remaining.

Having done well to chase back and dispossess Mulumbu, Johnson handed possession straight back to the Baggies man.

Mulumbu poked the ball forwards and Odemwingie did the rest, taking a couple of touches to compose himself and lashing a shot past Reina.

There was still more drama as Reds substitute Craig Bellamy saw his shot parried by Foster and Carroll's goalbound follow-up struck Olsson's knee and bounced to safety.

But the Baggies withstood a late barrage from the hosts to leave Hodgson celebrating a dream return.

Battling Bulldogs collar the two wins

BIRMINGHAM Bulldogs rugby league club struck a blow for the 13-a-side game by winning a cross-code game.

Their under-18s tackled Birmingham Barbarians rugby union under-17s, with the first half played under 15-a-side rules and the second with league regulations.

The Barbarians posted the first try but Bulldogs, with a measure of union experience in their ranks, took the honours 12-5. With rugby league laws in operation for the second period, the Bulldogs pulled away to win 22-8.

The Bulldogs seniors took on Wolverhampton and Birmingham University in a triangular meeting. University edged out Wolverhampton in the opening game; the Bulldogs then beat Wolves 18-6.

The Bulldogs really hit form in the final game, against University. They led 22-0 at the break and ran out winners 32-0.

Birmingham begin their league programme on May 5 at home to Northampton Demons (2.30pm). For more details on Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC, call 07854 637505 or 0121 707 8773.

Low-lying teams fail to hit target

Bustleholme 0 Bromyard 0
WITHOUT a West Midlands Premier win since November, third-from-bottom Bustleholme took on Bromyard, a place below them.

Both sides tried to play good football, but the blank scoreline shows what they have been missing.

The Bs had two chances within minutes of each other as Danny Hall hit a couple of dangerous right wing crosses but Jamie Clews just failed to connect properly.

Just after the hour mark, Bustleholme introduced Darrell Francis.

Within minutes he had the ball in the net, volleying in Spencer Lloyd's free-kick. But the referee disallowed it after spotting pushing.

Another Lloyd free-kick found Richard Povey, but his spectacular overhead kick fell wide. Adam Morton ran through the Bromyard defence but shot over the bar.

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Jack's the lad
Wood is going
for ABA glory
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Happy returns
Roy's boys stun
King Kenny
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Wheelchair tennis ace nets place in GB team

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley has earned wheelchair tennis World Team Cup selection.

The 19-year-old British No.1 heads a three-strong Great Britain team for the 2012 tournament in Korea, which runs from May 21-27.

Whiley has represented Great Britain in the annual Davis-Cup style competition six times.

She was a member of the team that won the junior World Team Cup event in Stockholm, Sweden in 2007 and the women's team that reached the final at Nottingham in 2009. She also won a bronze medal last year.

Whiley joins Somerset's Lucy Shuker and Wiltshire's Louise Hunt in this year's team in a reunion of the trio that reached the 2009 final.

"We've done well to reach the semi-finals in the last competitions and winning the bronze medal last year. "Hopefully we can mount a strong challenge once again."

GB Wheelchair Tennis World Team Cup team manager Paul Regan, said: "We have selected our strongest team and I am confident the players will do GB proud in Korea."

John goes down to the woods

HALESOWEN rally co-driver John Connor is going deep into the woods this weekend.

Connor and driver Richard Archer take their Opel Corsa S1600 into the challenging Kielder forest stages in round three of the NGK Spark Plugs BRC Challenge.

The duo have yet to score this year, but hope their fortunes will change in the Pirelli Challenge.

The event, which finishes in Carlisle, provides some of the most difficult and demanding special stages in UK rallying – particularly the Kielder stages.

The border forestry roads have always played a big part in British rallying and that long association will continue this weekend.

Archer is a possible title winner in the Pirelli, having already put wins to his name in the British Rally Championship's support series before.

But he and Connor have run into mechanical problems so far in the series.



Tom Perry with his Under-21 trophy

Champagne Perry so close

DUDLEY HEATHENS star Tom Perry came within an ace of claiming the British Under-21 title on a dramatic night at Monmore Green.

The 19-year-old, riding on home shale, finished joint top of the scorers to go directly to the final shoot-out.

Perry was off the favoured inside gate – but his chances were simultaneously lifted and lowered as Richie Worrall charged through the starting tapes.

The good news for Perry was that Worrall, who had carded four wins and a fall on his way to the final, was out.

The bad news was that he had wrecked

Speedway

the starting mechanism so badly that the restart had to be run under the 'old school' method of a marshal letting go of a stretched piece of elastic.

To do so, he stands off the track by gate four – giving the rider on the outside, Joe Haines, a split-second's start.

Haines took full advantage with a brilliant run round the boards to lead. Perry swept round Workington's Kyle Howarth after two laps and was gaining hand over fist on Haines, only for the Wolves asset to cover his attempted pass and take the flag.

The tapes incident was a second piece of fortune for Haines, who was stone last in his semi-final before Kyle Newman crashed out to prompt a rerun which he won.

For Haines, it was a double – he took the same crown at Lakeside in 2010. For Perry, nearly so – he already holds the British Under-21 grasstrack title.

But he was delighted with a podium finish. "Second or third lap I noticed I was getting closer to Joe," he said. "I thought: If I give it one big one round the outside, it might happen."

"But he covered me pretty good and I'm just happy to settle for second. I didn't think I'd even make the final."

Boatmen sunk by Jackson's hat-trick

Sholing 2 Halesowen 3

MARCUS JACKSON fired a superb hat-trick as Halesowen twice came from behind to beat Evo-Stik Division One South and West play-off participants Sholing.

Sholing, who had already booked a play-off place, were gifted a ninth-minute opening goal.

A harmless long clearance from goalkeeper Lee Webber caused a misunderstanding as Halesowen central defender Brendan Kelly steered his back header past his own goalkeeper Paul Evans, allowing Lee Wort to tap into an empty net.

Halesowen settled down and equalised in the 25th minute when Spencer Blackham's flick found Jackson free and he cut in from the right to drill a low, hard shot past Webber.

The Boatmen restored the lead in the 32nd minute when Evans pushed away Barry Mason's shot but Wort squared the rebound for Byron Mason to hook home from 10 yards.

At the start of the second period Marvin McLean sliced a good chance well wide for Sholing before the Yeltz provided a fighting finish to claim all three points.

Jackson tucked his second goal into the roof of the net to make it 2-2 in the 64th minute from a rebound after Blackham narrowly failed to beat substitute goalkeeper Mike Hookway.

With Halesowen continuing to press, Kelly's 70th minute low drive was then turned away by Hookway.

But Jackson had the final word to complete his hat-trick and win the game by stroking home an 85th minute penalty after home captain Kevin Gibbens handled on the edge of the penalty area.

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ROBBO SETS ALBION EUROPEAN TARGET

ALBION hero Bryan Robson has challenged the club to aim for Europe.

The ex-Baggies player and manager believes raising the Hawthorns wage bill has helped the club secure an unprecedented third successive Premier League season.

And the former England captain, the only man before current boss Roy Hodgson to keep Albion in the Premier League, reckons they must now attempt to recapture the European glory nights he experienced as a player.

Robson said: "Roy has done a great job but I think the structure of the club is just that little bit better now – at the training ground and the chairman has done a lot of things to the stadium."

"I think now he is just starting to put a little more money into the wage bill and maybe signings. Bringing in people like Paul Scharrer and Steven Reid on a little bit higher wages gives you a far better chance of staying in the division."

"I'm pleased for the fans that West Brom have stayed in there for that little bit longer and now they seem to be progressing as a squad."

Great
"That gives the fans hope. OK, they are not going to win the title but could they win a cup or get into Europe? The fans should be looking towards that now."

"I can remember in the 1970s Albion had good runs in European competitions and they are great nights for the fans. We'd have 32,000 there on those nights and it was a great atmosphere at The Hawthorns."

But Robson admitted keeping Hodgson could be crucial to the Baggies' hopes of building on their second successive Premier League survival.

The England great

by Steve Madeley

believes Hodgson could be an outside contender for the vacant England manager's job.

"The FA aren't giving too much away as to whether it is going to be Harry Redknapp or Stuart Pearce," said Robson.

"I think Albion would want to keep him. You need a consistent base at the club and Roy has established that."

Meanwhile, Albion will not recall Scott Allan early from his loan at Portsmouth – but he could figure in the final two matches of the season.

The Baggies considered calling back him in time for Saturday's derby against Villa with Pompey's relegation fate now sealed. They have now allayed the fears of Fratton Park boss and former Hawthorns coach Michael Appleton, meaning Allan will figure at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

But the 20-year-old will return to be considered for the trip to Bolton and the finale at home to Arsenal.

Assistant boss Keith Downing said: "We wanted to keep Scott there to help Michael out as much as possible."



There's no way through as Liverpool's Andy Carroll rues yet another missed chance in Albion's Anfield victory

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